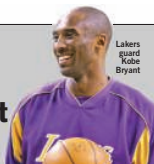


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Lakers guard Kobe Bryant

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Racing Stripes, Page 38

The car of NASCAR driver Greg Biffle

50¢

Congress told of treatment opportunities delayed, denied Page 5



Left: From left, Tech. Sgt. Joseph Vazquez and Staff Sgts. Roy Chavez and Roy de Guzman, all with the 374th Security Forces Squadron/ combat arms section, Yokota Air Base, Japan, conduct rapid-reload and dry-fire training at the small-arms firing range at the base. The training helps increase airmen's ability to reload their weapons under pressure. **Above:** Vazquez, the section chief, uses an M68 close combat optics during training at the small-arms firing range at Yokota Air Base. The M68 is the primary sighting system for the M4 carbine.

PHOTOS BY VAL GEMPIS
Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

R.I. nightclub fire: The families of four nightclub employees killed in the 2003 West Warwick, R.I., fire are asking a judge to order the club's owners to pay death benefits and lost wages. Jeffrey and Michael Denderian, owners of The Station nightclub, did not have workers' compensation insurance when their club burned to the ground.

The Station fire, sparked by a rock band's pyrotechnics, killed 100 people and injured more than 200 others on Feb. 20, 2003.

Hunting bin Laden claim: A man who told authorities in Detroit that he was headed to Syria to try to collect a \$25 million bounty on Osama bin Laden faces charges of attempting to smuggle more than \$13,000, a Taser stun device, ammunition and radiation detectors.

Milisen was indicted on charges of making false statements to federal investigators, trying to smuggle bulk cash out of the United States and attempting to export money and goods to Syria without a permit.

Secret Bush tapes: Tapes of President Bush that were secretly recorded by an old friend and released to the media now are in the possession of the president's private attorney, the White House said Tuesday.

Doug Wadell allowed journalists to hear and broadcast the tapes as he promoted his new book on presidential parents. But he said last week he had regrets about that and was turning the tapes over to Bush and giving the proceeds from his book to charity.

World

Pope's health: Pope John Paul II is "progressively improving" and following church activities daily, the Vatican said Thursday, suggesting he might be released from the hospital in time for Easter celebrations on March 27.

Papal spokesman Joaquín Navarro-Valls said the wound on John Paul's throat after surgery to insert a breathing tube was healing.

World Bank leadership: World Bank President James Wolfensohn said Thursday that U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was no longer in the running to head the Washington-based international financial institution.

The New York Times reported early this week that Wolfowitz was under serious consideration to become the next president of the World Bank, which will be open when



Pakistan gang rape: Mukhtar Mai, victim of a gang rape, sheds tears Thursday after a court's decision in Multan, Pakistan, that overturned the conviction of a village elder and four other men. The men had been sentenced to death for allegedly ordering the rape as punishment for her brother's illicit sex with a woman from another family. A sixth man's death sentence was reduced to life in prison, said Ramzan Joya, Mai's lawyer.

Wolfensohn leaves June 1 after two five-year terms.

Space station supplies: A Russian cargo ship carrying food, equipment and other supplies docked successfully with the international space station Wednesday, an official said.

The unmanned Progress M-52 spacecraft had lifted from the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Monday, carrying about 2.75 tons of food, water, fuel and research equipment for Russian cosmonaut Salizhan Sharipov and U.S. astronaut Leroy Chiao.

Charges against al-Zarqawi: Jordan charged Iraq insurgency leader Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi and another Jordanian militant Wednesday with carrying out an August 2003 attack on its Baghdad embassy that killed 18 people.

Both al-Zarqawi and Muammar Ahmed Youssef al-Jaghbeer have already been convicted and sentenced to death in Jordan for other terror attacks.

North Korea nuclear dispute: North Korea should present any new demands it has for abandoning its nuclear weapons pro-

gram but only within the framework of the stalled six-party talks, the top U.S. negotiator for those talks said Thursday.

"I would say we are very much ready" for the talks, media reports quoted U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Christopher Hill as saying at an Asian Leadership Conference discussion panel in Seoul. "But the question is, do they really want to stay out of the only process which is going forward and build a nuclear program that really has no use?"

Hill repeated the long-standing statement that the United States has "absolutely no intention" of invading North Korea.

The North repeatedly has claimed it developed nuclear weapons only as a "deterrent force" against U.S. aggression.

War on terrorism

Daniel Pearl slaying: A court in Pakistan on Thursday turned over an Islamic militant for police questioning over the killing of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl and two failed assassination attempts against President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, police said.

The suspect, Mohammed Sohail, was arrested in Karachi on Wednesday after a shootout with police.

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Study shows Army's black enlistments drop

Number of African-American volunteers falls 41 percent since 2000

BY TOM PHILPOTT

Special to Stars and Stripes

The Army's wartime recruiting challenge is aggravated by a sharp drop in black enlistments over the last four years, which internal Army and Defense Department polls trace to an unpopular war in Iraq and concerns among blacks with Bush administration policies.

The Army is straining to meet recruiting goals in part because the number of black volunteers has fallen 41 percent — from 23.5 percent of recruits in fiscal 2000 down steadily to 13.9 percent in the first four months of fiscal 2005.

It's alarming," said Maj. Gen. Michael D. Rochelle, commanding general of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command in Fort Knox, Ky.

No single factor explains the drop, Rochelle said, but clearly the propensity of black youth to enlist is impacted by the war and increasingly by views of parents, teachers, coaches, clergy and other "influencers."

"The influencers of these youth are causing them to be less inclined to listen to what good the Army could do for them in the long run," said Rochelle, one of the Army's most senior black officers.

Officer recruiting is hit, too. Black enrollment in the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps program is down 36 percent since 2001.

The Marine Corps also reports a drop in black recruits but its racial data on recruits is now suspect due to a government policy, effective Jan. 1, 2003, that allows recruits and all new federal workers to decline to identify their race. The Army has found a way to continue to track accurately its racial data, said S. Douglas Smith, spokesman for the recruiting command.

Rep. Charles B. Rangel, a Democrat whose New York City district includes Harlem, said he isn't too surprised by the Army recruiting data.

"I have not found a black person in support of this war in my district," he said. "The fact that every member of the Congressional Black Caucus emotionally, politically and vigorously opposes this war is an indication of what black folks think throughout this country."

Rangel also said there was "overwhelming disappointment" among blacks after Bush, in a disputed election, became president in 2001, and the disapproval "plummeted after he declared war in Iraq."

Results of the Defense Department's own Youth and Influencer Polls, conducted last May, affirm that administration policies and the Iraq war have lowered the propensity of black youth to enlist, particularly in the Army and Marine Corps, the ground forces taking most of the casualties. While the war reduced the likelihood of youth in general to join the military, says the Youth Poll report, "Black youth reported being more negatively affected.... Black youth were less supportive of U.S. troops' presence in Iraq, less likely to feel the war was justified, more disapproving of the Bush administration's handling of foreign affairs and more disapproving of its use of U.S. military forces than were whites or Hispanics."

Black youth unemployment remains above 10 percent, higher than for Hispanics and double that of whites. Blacks also tend to view military pay as more attractive than do other racial groups.



PFC Garfield Thompson, left, and a colleague run for cover as an Abrams tank fires into the Kuwaiti desert during live fire training on Jan. 31, 2003. There is a new urgency among soldiers of the U.S. Army's 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, Charlie Company, as it trains just south of the Iraqi border.

In years past, such factors enticed a disproportionate number of African-American youth to see opportunity in the Army. In some years since the draft ended in 1973, the percentage of blacks among Army volunteers approached 30 percent.

In fiscal 2000, blacks still represented almost a quarter of Army recruits. That percentage fell to 22.7 in 2001, 19.9 in '02, 16.4 in '03, 15.9 in '04, and now to 13.9 percent through four months of fiscal 2005. No such decline has been seen among Hispanics or white recruits. Indeed, their percentages among Army recruits grew during the first Bush administration.

Because blacks are 14 percent of all recruit-age youth, their recruiting numbers remain "acceptable," said Rochelle, proportional to blacks in society. But the steep drop in black recruits overall does hurt plans "to grow the Army," he conceded. Congress has ordered a 30,000 increase in the number of active-duty soldiers by October 2007.

Rangel said many blacks still are enticed into service by benefits and cash incentives, which are rising sharply.

"It has amazed me that, not withstanding the general feeling of the community, they still have enlisted and fought. When my [Guard and Reserve] outfits come home, these guys get their medals and they're proud. But when I'm called up [to speak], they cheer and stomp their feet, knowing that I fought against the war. It's inconsistent as hell."

Another Army-directed poll, the U.S. Military Image Study, is posted on a Defense Contracting Command Web site, likely by mistake. Based on interviews with 3,236 youth ages 16 to 24, this study says, "Recruiting an all-volunteer Army in times of war is increasingly difficult."

While money for college remains a major motivator to enlist, the Iraq war leaves youth, particularly blacks, conflicted.

"More African-Americans identify having to fight for a cause they don't support as a barrier to military service," the study found.

Fear of being killed or injured was the top reason to avoid service for 26 percent of youth in 2004, almost double the 14 percent reported in 2000.

Army and Army Reserve miss February recruitment goal

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va.—For the first time in almost five years, the active-duty Army missed its monthly recruiting goal in February, a failure directly related to public concerns about the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, an Army recruiting official said.

The Army Reserve also missed its goals in February, for the second month in a row.

"People are watching the news," said Doug Smith, a spokesman for U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox in Kentucky. "They know the risks of military service in today's environment."

Army recruiters were told to bring 7,050 new soldiers into the fold in February.

Instead, the recruiters found only 5,114 people willing to join the active Army.

In the Army Reserve, the recruiting goal for the month was 1,320, but only 990 new reservists joined the service.

January's recruiting goal for the Army Reserve was also missed, marking the first monthly shortfall for the component since September 2003. Smith said. Fort Knox does not keep recruiting statistics for the Army National Guard. Recruiting for the Guard is the responsibility of each state component, which sets its own goal numbers.

For the Army and Army Reserve, the February shortfalls leave both components short for the fiscal year, as well.

The Army's goal for recruiting active-duty soldiers for fiscal 2005, which began on Oct. 1, is 80,000. By the end of February, the component was supposed to have recruited 27,362 of those soldiers. But the Army missed that goal by 1,823 soldiers.

The goal for the Army Reserve is 22,175. By the end of February, the component was supposed to have recruited 5,587 of those soldiers. But the Army Reserve missed that goal by 643 soldiers.

"Although Smith said Army officials are keeping a close eye" on the recruiting results for the year, he said recruiters still believe they can make up the shortfalls by the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30.

"Missing a month is not necessarily missing a year," Smith said.

Nevertheless, "We knew it was going to be a difficult year," Smith said.

For the first time since 2001, the active Army began fiscal 2005 with far fewer recruits in the Delayed Entry Program, which allows newly joined members to wait for up to a year before reporting for boot camp.

Army recruiters prefer to begin the fiscal year with 25 to 35 percent of their new yearly goal "banked" under the delayed entry status, Smith said.

But as of Oct. 1, 2004, when the government's fiscal 2005 began, the Army only had 18 percent of its 2005 goal total in the program, he said.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil

Injured reservists decry poor medical treatment

Military officials admit imbalance with active duty

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Petty officer Anthony Cuomo believes if he were an active-duty sailor, the Navy would have already taken care of the shoulder injury he suffered while training in Iraq.

But instead the reservist, who joined after serving as a New York City firefighter during the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, said he has undergone 21 months of confusion over his military status and rights, and is still waiting for additional surgeries to repair torn muscles.

"In my mind, there is one word for this: discrimination," he said Wednesday, during testimony before a congressional panel investigating the treatment of wounded troops.

Top military officials acknowledged at the hearing that such health care inconsistencies do exist, despite efforts to ensure equitable care for all those injured in combat zones.

Cuomo praised the medical professionals who have treated him — one doctor told him he was a "sailor and a patient," but said administrators have delayed and denied treatments for him.

On one point, he said, Navy officials classified his debilitating shoulder and head pain as a "minor" and noncombat-related. His shoulder separation came during a training exercise inside Iraq.

Members of Congress called that testimony upsetting.

"I'm disappointed that we're back here again to hear about the same problems that we've all worked so hard to fix," said Rep. John McHugh, R-N.Y., chairman of a House subcommittee on military personnel. "These reports are disturbing."

Chief Warrant Officer Stephen Kecton said after initially receiving exemplary treatment overseas for his injuries, he returned home to find discrepancies how reservists were handled.

"I was really dismayed when an Army chaplain boarded our bus full of wounded troops, and began to ask if we were Reserve or active duty," he said. "If it was Guard or Reserve he passed them up, and if it was an active-duty member he began to talk with them."

"He said we would receive the care we needed when we got to the destination station, but he was there for the active-duty guys."

Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Joseph Webb said of the 21,000 Army guardsmen and reservists injured in the war on terror, nearly 16,000 have finished their rehabilitation and nearly 10,000 have been returned to duty.

"I don't think there's another system in the world that could do that," he said. "But improvements to the seamless transition of care are still needed."

The hearing also covered health care problems not related to duty status. Senior Airman Anthony Pizzifred, who lost his left leg to a land mine in Iraq, said some medical centers he visited knew little about prosthetics and other treatment for amputees.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.osd.mil



SEAN E. COBB/Stars and Stripes

At the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Fisher House in Germany, Lisa Sallee, her husband Air Force Staff Sgt. Ricky Sallee and their daughter, Brenna, unpack for their stay. "We have made supporting servicemen and women wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their families, our No. 1 priority," said Jim Weiskopf, Fisher House Foundation spokesman, as the foundation looks to build new locations.

Fisher House looks for new locations

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

As more troops return from war zones needing long-term medical care, the Fisher House Foundation has shifted its focus on where to build houses that accommodate the wounded and their visiting families, officials said.

"We have made supporting service men and women wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their families, our No. 1 priority ... which includes building Fisher Houses at medical centers where they're going to be receiving their long-term care," said Jim Weiskopf, foundation spokesman.

The nonprofit foundation founded in 1990 by philanthropists Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher originally built houses only at military treatment facilities. Ten years ago, it expanded and built its first Department of Veterans Affairs facility house in Albany, N.Y. There now are six VA Fisher Houses, and a seventh near completion.

"The change for us at the VA is

that the Fisher House Foundation has committed to adding houses at our facilities," said Jill Manske, director of social work services at the VA.

"We're beginning to see a lot of casualties from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom being treated at our facilities, patients who are still on active duty, and their families are coming from long distances and need lodging," Manske said.

A Fisher House is "a home away from home," conceived to give families a place to stay while loved ones receive medical care. They feature private bedrooms and common kitchens, laundry facilities and dining and living rooms, and normally are located within walking distance of the treatment center or have transportation available.

About 8,500 families a year stay at the foundation's 32 Fisher Houses. Two of them are at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, the sole location outside of the United States.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail.stripes.osd.mil

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U.S. troop deaths in Iraq surpass 1,500



A GI patrols in Baghdad on Thursday. The number of U.S. military deaths in Iraq has topped 1,500.

By TODD PITMAN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq has topped 1,500, an Associated Press count showed Thursday after the military announced the deaths of three Americans, while car bombs targeting Iraqi security forces killed at least four people in separate attacks.

Two suicide car bombs exploded outside the Interior Ministry in eastern Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least two policemen and wounding five others, police Maj. Jabar Hassan said. Officials at nearby al-Kindi hospital said 15 people were injured in the blasts, part of the relentless wave of violence since the Jan. 30 elections.

Another car bomb targeting a police convoy exploded in Baquba, 35 miles northeast of the capital, killing one Iraqi policeman and a civilian, the U.S. military said. Six police and 10 other civilians were also wounded.

Amid the violence, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi extended the state of emergency, first announced nearly four months ago, for another 30 days until the end of March. The order remains in effect throughout the country, except in northern Kurdish-run areas.

The emergency decree includes a nighttime curfew and gives the government extra powers to make arrests without warrants and launch police and military operations when it deems necessary.

The latest reported American deaths brought the toll to 1,502 since the United States launched the war in Iraq in March 2003, according to the AP count.

The military said two U.S. troops died Wednesday in Baghdad of injuries suffered when a roadside bomb struck their vehicle.

Another soldier was killed the same day in Babil province, part of an area known as the "Triangle of Death" because of the frequency of insurgent attacks on U.S. and Iraqi forces.

The car bombers in Baghdad were trailing a police convoy that was trying to enter the Interior Ministry, Hassan said. Iraqi security forces opened fire on the vehicles and disabled them before they could arrive at a main checkpoint, said Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman, an Interior Ministry spokesman.

Iraqi forces also killed one Iraqi man during clashes with gunmen in the northern city of Mosul, army Capt. Sabah Yassin said.

Two soldiers were injured. Also in the north, insurgents blew up a gas pipeline that links Kirkuk to Dibis, about 20 miles away, said Col. Nozad Mohammad, a state oil security official in Kirkuk.

Talks aimed at forging a new coalition government faltered Wednesday over Kurdish demands for more land and concerns that the dominant Shiite alliance seeks to establish an Islamic state, delaying the planned first meeting of parliament.

February saw fewest U.S. losses since July

By LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — February was the best month U.S. forces in Iraq have had in a while, with just 58 U.S. troops killed, the fewest in a single month since last July, when 54 died.

Still, the U.S. death toll in Iraq surpassed 1,500 on Thursday, even though violence has fallen to pre-election levels, according to defense officials.

"Iraq is still a very dangerous place," said Lt. Col. Barry Venable. "There are still various enemy forces that are determined to disrupt the Iraqi march to independence."

"That said," Venable added, "it appears the overall level of attacks has gone down to the levels they were prior to the pre-election and election period."

November, December and January were among the most deadly months for U.S. troops since the United States attacked Iraq in March 2003.

Those three months represented an unusual spike, and were "anomalies" rather than the leading edge of an upward trend, Venable said.

"In November, there was [the fight in] Fallujah, and December and January were the run-ups to elections," Venable said. "Then on election day, [the insurgents] threw everything they had at us."

U.S. troops were being attacked with improvised explosive devices, mortars and gunfire at a rate upwards of 100 incidents per day in the late months of 2004 and in January, a defense official with knowledge of internal unit records told Stars and Stripes.

Before that time, there were about 50 attacks on coalition personnel each day, said the official, who asked not to be named because he is not responsible for releasing such data.

Now the attacks are back down to about 50 per day, the official said.

Moreover, "we're finding that the attacks against coalition forces are less effective," the official said.

U.S. troops are growing particularly adept at locating IEDs ("before they go boom," the official said, crediting "better training, better [detection] equipment, and better recognition" for that success.

Insurgents are also continuing to focus their most deadly attacks against Iraqis, particularly the new Iraqi police and military forces, which are still finding their feet, Army Gen. John Abizaid, head of U.S. forces in the Middle East, told the House Armed Services Committee on Wednesday.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at:
burgess@stripes.com



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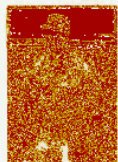
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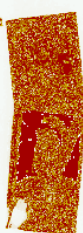
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Yokosuka Garrison's Brewery

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New Sasabo



'You just feel like you're helping soldiers'

Small factory known for making salad bars now constructs armor bound for Iraq

By AMIT R. PALEY

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — For a half-century, the clanging machines at American Metal Fabricators have churned out stainless-steel salad bars and rotisserie-chicken display cases for grocery stores and university cafeterias.

Last year, however, the family-owned factory near the Chesapeake Bay took on a new mission: vehicle armor for the U.S. military. To meet the demand for equipment in Iraq, the Pentagon increasingly has turned to what it calls "nontraditional"

vendors, with little or no defense experience. The military said it does not keep figures, but Paul Kern, who retired last month as commanding general of Army Materiel Command, estimated it has used thousands of such firms in the past two years.

"I guess everybody who does war work has got more than they can handle," said James Phillip Poole, president of American Metal Fabricators in Prince Frederick, Md., about 40 miles southeast of here.

The stakes were particularly high for his 100 employees when they added armor to their regular line of food service equipment in February 2004. Not only did they face a sharply

increased workload, they did so knowing that every piece of metal they sliced and welded could make a life-or-death difference. Reports of undersupplied soldiers scrounging for scrap metal to cover their vehicles added to the gravity of the task.

"These people are depending on this to be strong and dependable. I've got to make sure it is," said John Credeur, 20, before focusing his blow-torch on the pieces of iron he was welding together into windshield frames.

"It makes me feel like I'm part of something. To see that my hard work is helping our troops, it makes me

feel good."

The company, founded by Poole's father in 1946 in his basement, had \$10 million in sales last year. It made salad bars and other food equipment.

That was before a military supplier asked Poole whether he could also produce 2,000 sets of steel armor plates to frame 170-pound bulletproof windshields for the Army's Humvees. Workers were excited, though a bit perplexed.

"We were astonished that we got it," foreman Tony Hardesty, 38, said. "We've never done black ironwork before. We were like, man, we're doing Humvees!"

First, they had to figure out how to

design the armor. The Army sent no blueprints, just the hulking front of a Humvee (for reference) and formidable technical specifications: The armor, for example, had to be strong enough to hold the windshield onto the Humvee frame even if the vehicle hit an eight-inch curb at 80 mph.

"We were just going completely fresh," said Glen Knott, who spent three 11-hour days on a computer design program to find a way for the company's machines to bend and punch sheets of metal into windshield frames.

Military tests revealed a problem with the initial design: Rounds from an M-16 could pierce the two quarter-inch-thick plates of armor between panes of the windshield. So Poole added a third sheet.

The military contract created an overwhelming amount of work, coming during an already busy spring. The Pentagon often allowed only six weeks to fill complicated orders, causing some workers to put in 12-hour shifts and work weekends.

"We were busy as hell," said Poole, who sometimes woke at 2 a.m. to get the work done.

As they finished the first order, new requests poured in. The firm has produced more than 8,000 sets of armored windshield frames.

It's been easy to get employees to meet the production targets, Poole said.

"You just feel like you're helping soldiers," Hardesty said.



THE WASHINGTON POST/ATAP

John Credeur works with a tungsten inert gas welder to join pieces of a windshield retaining armor, for vehicles in Iraq, at the American Metal Fabricators factory in Maryland.

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16

Fussa Gate

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Exhibit gives faces to GIs killed in Iraq

By WILLIAM KATES

The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — It's hard to forget the face of a fallen soldier. Imagine the impression created by 1,483 of them.

Portraits of American servicemen and women killed in Iraq go on display Thursday on a 200-foot stretch of wall in Syracuse University's Shaffer Art Building. The 5-by-7-inch images will stay up until April 1.

"It's a powerful sight to take in," said Syracuse University professor Stephen Zaima, who teaches painting. "It's not about the artists or their styles. It's not about the war or politics. It's about these people who have given their lives."

The exhibition, "To Never Forget: Faces of the Fallen," builds on the work done last year by students and faculty at The College of Marin in California, who produced 1,109 portraits.

The 374 others — done using pencil, ink, oils, watercolors, prints, even computers — were created by students, faculty and staff members at Syracuse as well as local artists. The portraits are of soldiers who were killed up to Feb. 19.

As of Thursday, at least 1,502 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of



Kristin Sorrentino, a Syracuse University advertising design senior, paints a portrait of U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Joseph E. Rodriguez of Fort Hood, Texas, on Thursday. SU students, faculty and community members added 350 portraits of soldiers killed in Iraq to an already existing exhibition of about 1,100 from the College of Marin, in California.

the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Zaima painted 1st Lt. Adam Malson, 23, of Rochester, N.Y., Mich., who died Feb. 19. "Seeing there eye to eye, you get a connection," he said. "You get to know them a little bit."

The artists based their work

mainly on newspaper and Internet photographs of the soldiers. Some were given additional personal information.

The portraits will eventually be sent to the soldiers' families.

"I'd be proud to give these to their families," said Jennifer Schiffman, a senior from Buffalo Grove, Ill.

IN THE WORLD

'We're on a constant hunt for bin Laden'

But U.S. desire to bring terrorist to justice may outstrip resources

BY KATHARINE SHRAIDER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Osama bin Laden remains Public Enemy No. 1, but recent developments raise questions about the ability of U.S. forces to track down the elusive terrorist and the resources dedicated to the hunt more than three years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Fresh reminders of the unsuccessful search come as intelligence officials indicated this week that bin Laden has been in contact with Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the top al-Qaida figure in Iraq, enlisting his help in planning attacks inside the United States.

In a rare mention of his name Thursday, President Bush said bin Laden hopes to attack again on U.S. soil and "stopping him is the greatest challenge of our day."

"We're on a constant hunt for bin Laden," Bush said at a ceremonial swearing-in for Homeland Security Secretary Mike Chertoff.

Current and former government officials say there is no doubt that the Bush administration wants bin Laden "dead or alive," as the president said shortly after Sept. 11. But skills and dollars may fall short of desire.

Army Gen. John Abizaid, chief

of U.S. Central Command, told the Senate Armed Services Committee this week that bin Laden and the al-Qaida senior leadership have been "our priority target" since Sept. 11 but added, "It's important for all of us to know that military forces do best in attacking the network as opposed to looking for a specific person."

U.S. personnel including CIA paramilitary, contractors and some of the military's highly trained special forces have been on the hunt. In a recent report, the Congressional Research Service said 18,000 U.S. forces remain in Afghanistan, running down al-Qaida and Taliban, joined by thousands of Pakistani forces and agents.

Yet a former intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, wondered about recent decisions on U.S. resources. The official said intelligence and military assets were moved from Afghanistan to Iraq for the Jan. 30 elections there, and it's unclear whether they went back.

Since the late 1990s, the government has debated how best to get the terror leader and what his capture is worth. In the 2001 Patriot Act, lawmakers authorized the State Department, through its Rewards for Justice Program, to pay more than \$5 million.

The long search for Osama bin Laden

Even before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the U.S. government was offering a reward for information leading to the capture of al-Qaida founder and Saudi exile Osama bin Laden — wanted in connection with other U.S. attacks.

Confirmed or suspected al-Qaida attacks before Sept. 11



Matchbook with U.S. reward information from Peshawar, Pakistan, near the Afghanistan border in 2000

Source: State Department Rewards for Justice; Congressional Research Service

In November, Congress authorized increasing the reward for information leading to bin Laden's killing or capture to \$50 million. But Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice hasn't boosted the reward.

Rep. Mark Kirk, R-Ill., who was behind the most recent rewards legislation, said the department is moving fast — "for the normal speed limit at the State Department" — in its consideration of the November legislation.

Kirk applauded other efforts under way, including a recent television, newspaper and radio campaign in four languages to remind Pakistanis about the reward. He was responsible for this legislation too.

Kirk advises patience. On a trip to Pakistan in January, when newspaper ads were running, he said U.S. officials were getting a dozen tips a day on al-Qaida's leadership — up from zero.

GOP wants to add war funds

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans want to add about \$1.8 billion for armored vehicles and other defense needs to the U.S. military budget for the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and other operations abroad, figures obtained by The Associated Press show.

They also want to pare about half the \$4 billion he proposed for Afghan rebuilding aid to other allies and for State Department expenditures, congressional aides say.

GOP leaders of the House Appropriations Committee planned to release their version of the war package on Thursday. An aide, who like others spoke only on condition of anonymity Wednesday, said its overall price tag would be just below Bush's \$81.9 billion proposal.

The bill is expected to also include aid to Indian Ocean countries recovering from the December tsunami.

The House changes reflect a bipartisan desire to be generous to U.S. troops serving abroad, despite concerns lawmakers had with parts of Bush's proposal.

66 people accused of pedophilia in France

BY VERENA VON DERSCHAU

The Associated Press

ANGERS, France — Sixty-six people were accused of participating in a pedophilia ring in which children and babies were prostituted for food and small sums of money Thursday as one of France's biggest trials got underway.

Prosecutors contended that dozens of children — ages 6 months to 14 years — were raped by their parents or offered to other adults for sex from 1990 to 2002.

Some of the 45 victims, who are now in the care of social services, were expected to testify by closed-circuit television. The children will not appear in court.

Authorities were offering psychological counseling to the jurors and six judges to help them cope with sordid testimony of child abuse and gang rape expected during the about four-month trial, to be held in a specially built courtroom in Angers.

Many of the defendants are from low-income households in the working class Saint-Leonard neighborhood of Angers, and some were themselves reportedly abused as children.

Three couples at the center of the prostitution ring lured their children and those of their relatives "to play doctor" with the adults, the newspaper Le Monde reported. One young girl was allegedly raped 45 times.

Defense lawyers planned to argue that government social workers, who were monitoring many of the suspects, failed in their responsibilities or turned a blind eye to signs of abuse. Some of the defendants cited in the 420-page legal filing are illiterate and don't fully understand the charges against them, lawyers said.

Thirty-nine people face up to 30 years in prison if convicted of raping minors under age 15 and on prostitution charges. Other suspects face up to 10 years behind bars if convicted of sexual violence against minors and failure to denounce crimes.

Chris gets 2½ years in Bali bombings

BY CHRIS BRUMMITT

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — The alleged leader of a militant Islamic group was sentenced Thursday to 2½ years in prison for conspiracy in the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings that killed 202 people but was cleared of more serious charges. The United States and Australia criticized the sentence.

A five-judge panel cleared Abu Bakar Bashir of allegations that as head of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah group he planned the 2003 suicide bombing of the J.W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta that killed 12 people and that he incited his followers to launch terrorist attacks.

The 66-year-old preacher could be released from prison by late 2006 with time already served in prison taken into account.

Bashir had faced a maximum penalty of death over the Marriott charge, but most analysts had predicted his punishment would be far less — partly due to a weak case by prosecu-

tors. During the five-month trial, one witness directly testified that Bashir headed Jemaah Islamiyah, the group blamed in both attacks.

"I'm being oppressed by people from abroad and at home," Bashir said after the verdict, surrounded by hundreds of cheering supporters. "They consider Islamic law to be a shackles and are slaves to immoral behavior. Allah, open their hearts or destroy them."

"Smash America and its lackeys," shouted one supporter. Both sides they would consider appealing the verdict, with Bashir's lawyers calling the sentence politically motivated.

Bashir and his have repeatedly claimed that Jakarta was under pressure from the United States to find him guilty.

The United States and Australia, which lost seven and 88 citizens respectively in the attack on Bali tourist nightclubs, consider Bashir the spiritual leader of Jemaah Islamiyah and were hoping for a lengthy prison term to deter terrorism in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

"We respect the independence and judgment of the Indonesian courts," U.S. Embassy spokesman Max Kravak said. "But given the gravity of the charges on which he was convicted, we are disappointed at the length of the sentence."

"We'd have liked a longer sentence," Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said.

Intelligence officials say Jemaah Islamiyah has cells across Southeast Asia where it is believed to be seeking a pan-Islamic state. Alleged members jailed without trial in Malaysia are accused of helping two of the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers during a visit to that country in 2000.

Before that attack, Bashir was chiefly known for his campaign to install an Islamic-based government in Indonesia and his criticism of U.S. policy toward Muslim countries. He has little active support in Indonesia, where hard-line religious interpretations are unpopular.

"I'm being oppressed by people from abroad and at home."

Abu Bakar Bashir after being sentenced



Bashir

Jenkins applies for U.S. passport

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Charles Robert Jenkins, who spent nearly 40 years in North Korea after abandoning his U.S. Army unit in 1965, visited the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo on Thursday to apply for an American passport.

Jenkins, something of a celebrity in Japan, was hustled into the embassy compound in a bus with tinted windows. Embassy officials refused to comment because of privacy laws, but officials in his Japanese wife's hometown said

earlier he would make the visit to apply for a passport.

The former U.S. Army sergeant served 25 days in an American military jail last year for abandoning his U.S. Army post in South Korea in January 1965 and fleeing to the North. Since then,



Jenkins

he has been living in his wife's hometown of Mano, on the northern Japanese island of Sado.

Jenkins, 64 and frail, has said he has no plans to return permanently to the United States but would like to visit his home in North Carolina with his wife, Hitomi Soga, and their two North Korean-born daughters.

Soga was kidnapped by North Korean agents when she was a 19-year-old student and taken to the isolated communist state in 1978.

She married Jenkins soon afterward but was only allowed to re-

turn to Japan in 2002 when North Korea reversed years of denial and admitted it had kidnapped 13 Japanese in the 1970s and 1980s. Jenkins and their daughters left North Korea and joined Soga last July.

Last month, he told reporters that he wants to see his 91-year-old mother as soon as possible. She lives in a nursing home in Roanoke Rapids, N.C.

Embassy officials said it normally takes three to four weeks to process a passport application.

Fans not allowed access to Fischer

BY AUDREY MCAVOY

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Bobby Fischer's supporters said they were wrongfully denied access to the former chess champion in Japanese immigration detention this week, and were worried about his health and well-being, a spokesman said Thursday.

Washington has been seeking Fischer, 61, for more than a decade on charges of violating international sanctions against the former Yugoslavia by playing chess there in 1992.

He was arrested in July for trying to board a plane to the Philippines with an invalid U.S. passport, and Japan has ordered him deported to the United States.

"We'd like to know the health and safety of Mr. Fischer," said John Bosnitch of the Committee to Free Bobby Fischer after supporters from Iceland were refused access to the chess great at a detention center outside Tokyo on Wednesday and Thursday.

Authorities cited "safety reasons" for their decision, he said.

Fischer's lawyer, Miyoko Watai, visited him and spoke to him by phone Tuesday, but hasn't had contact since. He's nitch said, adding that supporters would try to see him again on Friday.

Testuya Shishido, a spokesman for East Japan Detention Immigration Detention Center, where Fischer is being held, refused to comment on inmate visits. He said center rules prohibited him from even saying whether Fischer was there.

Icelandic immigration authorities last month agreed to grant Fischer a special passport for foreigners that would allow him to travel to Western Europe, but rejected supporters' request that he be awarded citizenship.

His lawyers initially fought the deportation order — which Fischer claims is politically motivated. But after Iceland's decision, they petitioned a Japanese court to free Fischer and let him go to Iceland — instead of the United States. The case is pending.



Fischer

Anti-Syrian sentiment on the rise

BY BASSEM MROUE

The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Syrian taxi driver Mohammed Toja has been ferrying passengers between Beirut and Damascus for 12 years. But he is reconsidering working here amid the soaring anti-Syrian sentiment that's followed last month's assassination of Lebanon's former prime minister.

Two days after a massive bomb killed Rafik Hariri and 17 others in Beirut, Toja's Dodge — its bright yellow color marking it as a Syrian taxi — was damaged when people on an overpass dropped a motorcycle battery onto it.

And during a recent breakfast, angry young men warned him to leave the neighborhood or his car would be attacked again.

"If things continue this way, I probably will stop coming to Lebanon," said the 38-year-old, standing with fellow Syrian drivers near Charles Helou Station, Beirut's main stop for taxis driving between Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

Toja is like hundreds of thousands of Syrian workers — mainly farmers and construction workers — lured to Lebanon by the promise of higher pay. But their numbers have noticeably dwindled



Syrian workers load their bags into a bus before heading back to their country on Tuesday. Since last month's assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, thousands of Syrian have workers left the country after some of them were attacked by Lebanese.

died since some have become targets after Hariri's death, which many Lebanese blame on Syria and their own country's pro-Damascus authorities.

Despite official Syrian and Lebanese denials, anti-Syrian sentiment has reached fever pitch throughout this country. Massive anti-Syrian protests brought down Lebanon's pro-Damascus government and calls are intensifying for the withdrawal of Syr-

ia's 15,000 troops based here.

A day after Hariri's Feb. 14 assassination, dozens of supporters clashed with Syrian workers in his southern hometown of Sidon, slightly injuring five Syrians. In the northern town of Minye, 23 tents housing dozens of Syrian laborers were burned, although the cause was unclear.

Many Syrian workers quit, packed up and headed home. In western Beirut's Cola and Barbir

neighborhoods, where hundreds of Syrian workers once waited to be hired for temporary work, only about a dozen appeared recently.

Fearful of anti-Syrian recriminations, Lebanese opposition leaders urged protesters not to attack Syrian workers following demonstrations that led to the resignation of Prime Minister Omar Karami's pro-Damascus Cabinet.

Group: Pastor dies while aiding defectors

Korean-American preacher drowned in effort to help North Koreans reach the South

The Associated Press

SEOUL — A Korean-American pastor drowned in a river while trying to help a group of North Koreans defect to the South, a civic group claimed Thursday.

A swift current swept away 62-year-old Jeffrey Baik, also known as Jeon-jie, as he tried to swim across the Mekong River from Myanmar to Laos with six North Korean defectors on Jan. 2, said Chun Ki-won, director of Durihana Mission, a Seoul-based missionary group that helps Northern defectors.

The six defectors were passing through China, Laos and Myanmar on their way to South Korea, where they wanted to seek asylum, Chun said.

He said they had been detained in Myanmar for illegal entry and had sent him letters reporting that they saw Baik drown in the river.

The six are now in Seoul, Chun said. The Foreign Ministry declined to confirm if they had entered South Korea.

Baik, of Atlanta, Ga., had been

working with Durihana Mission and had accompanied the six defectors from Yanji in China's Jilin province after they fled their home country in November, Chun said.

In recent years, North Korean defectors have traveled through China to countries such as Myanmar and Laos — then to Thailand and other countries they hope will sympathize with their plight — before arriving in South Korea.

Those caught by Chinese authorities are often sent home,

where they can expect harsh punishment.

Last month, a Seoul-based civic group alleged North Korea had executed 70 defectors, who had been captured in China, to discourage others from fleeing the communist country.

Nearly 1,900 North Koreans defected to the South last year — an increase of nearly 50 percent from the year before — to escape hunger and political repression in their homeland.

The inter-Korean border remains sealed and heavily guarded after the 1950-53 Korean War.



Teacher Yuko Taguchi works with 8-year-olds Maya Kusnagi, Chika Suzuki, Tatsuya Wakamatsu. The three are the only second-grade students at Kami Hinokini Elementary, which is scheduled to close in 2007 due to a lack of children. Japan's low birthrate has led to a dearth of children, the closing of many schools and a shrinking population.

LATWP photos

'Children are vanishing'

Japan's low birth rate leading to economic worries

By ANTHONY FAIOLA

Washington Post Foreign Service

NISHIKI, Japan — When Kami Hinokini Junior High opened half a century ago in this picturesque northern village, Fukuyo Suzuki, then a young mother, remembers joining other parents on a warm May afternoon to plant pink azaleas in the schoolyard.

The azaleas are still here, though bare in the winter snow and, like the new occupants of the school, more fragile than they once were. In a nation grappling with a record low birthrate and the world's longest average life span, Suzuki, 77, is spending the daytime hours of her twilight years back in the halls of her son's old school.

The junior high, which ceased operation six years ago because of a shortage of children, now houses a community center for the elderly.

"I never imagined this school would close and that I would be back here myself," said Suzuki, a farmer's widow who lives with her 52-year-old son. Like one out of four men in Nishiki, her son remains single and childless. "Now, I hear our elementary school is going to close, too," she said. "It's so sad for us. Children are vanishing from our lives."

The change at the junior high in this shrinking village of 5,924 is an example of what analysts describe as Japan's greatest national problem: a combination baby bust and senior citizen boom. Indeed, next year Nishiki is set to pay the highest price for its shrinking population: Unable to sustain its annual budget, it will join a growing list of Japanese towns that have officially ceased to exist and have merged with a neighboring city.

In the aftermath of World War II, the rush to build a modern



Fukuyo Suzuki, 77, spends her days in her son's former junior high school in the village of Nishiki, which closed six years ago and recently has been turned into a day care center for the elderly. She says she misses the voices of children in her village.

economy sparked migration from rural towns such as Nishiki to Japan's urban centers. But officials say the lure of the big city is no longer the key factor driving depopulation. For at least the past decade, the leading cause of the town's shrinking population base has been a disturbingly low birthrate.

Last year, 42 babies were born in Nishiki, the lowest number since the town was incorporated in the 1950s, while 75 villagers died, according to local statistics. Nishiki's plight, analysts said, should be an omen of Japan's future.

The national child shortage, even as the population ages, is

raising fears about Japan's long-term ability to maintain its status as the world's second-largest economy after the United States. With more Japanese choosing to remain single and forgoing parenthood, the population of almost 128 million is expected to decrease next year, then plunge to about 126 million by 2015 and about 101 million by 2050.

Many people are asking: Will there be enough Japanese left to participate in the economy in the years to come? "A nation requires a certain scale in the population to continue its momentum, but in Japan, we are confronting a serious combination of a low birthrate and an aging nation," said Kota Murase, a deputy director at Japan's Education Ministry.

"Our pension system is already being tested to its limits. And with fewer young people in society, the question is: How are we going to sustain the elderly and the nation's future? We don't have a clear answer yet."

The list of solutions is short and complicated. The most obvious — opening Japan to more immigration — is enormously controversial in a society that is 98.8 percent ethnically homogeneous and, in many respects, still markedly xenophobic.

When Japan's economic bubble burst in 1990, Japanese companies seeking less expensive alternatives to men began hiring women for contract and part-time jobs. Gender roles have changed as a result. With increasing financial independence, more women are avoiding marriage. According to a poll released this week by Japan's Yomiuri newspaper, seven out of 10 single Japanese women say they have no desire to become wives — a role that in Japan still largely means staying home and raising children.

Special correspondent Sachiko Sakamaki contributed to this report.

'Little Black Sambo' to be revived in Japan

Some criticize children's book as racist

The Yomiuri Shimbun

TOKYO — The former best-selling translated children's book "Chibikuro Sambo" ("Little Black Sambo"), which went out of print because of criticism it had racist content, will be republished next month. The Yomiuri Shimbun learned Wednesday.

The original Japanese translation was published by Iwanami Shoten, but this time Zuiunsha in Tokyo will revive the book. Zuiunsha has already received orders for the book from bookstores.

The original stories of "Little Black Sambo" were written by Helen Bannerman in Britain at the end of the 19th century.

The most popular of the stories in Japan involved the main character, Sambo, using his wits to escape a tiger attack.

In Japan, scores of translations were published, but the most popular one was the Iwanami Shoten version illustrated by Frank Dobias and translated by Natsuya

Mitsuyoshi, which sold out in 1953. More than 1 million copies were sold.

But in 1988, citizen groups began criticizing the book's content as discriminatory against black people. Publishing houses decided to stop printing the book.

The issue was examined in books and discussed in symposiums. In 1999, Komichi Shobo published an original edition that used the author's illustrations.

Zuiunsha President Tomio Inoue said: "I don't think the book has discriminatory expressions compared with other picture books. The illustrations in Iwanami's version were beautiful and loved by many people. We must hand it down to the next generation."

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Sir Richard Branson, left, and Peggy Fossett watch as Steve Fossett lands the GlobalFlyer airplane Thursday in Salina, Kan.

Fossett sets record with global solo flight

BY JOHN MILBURN
The Associated Press

SALINA, Kan. — Millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett on Thursday became the first person to fly around the world solo without stopping or refueling — 67 hours and 23,000 miles after taking off in his spindly-looking, experimental jet.

"That was something I wanted to do for a long time, a major ambition," a jubilant Fossett said immediately after emerging from the custom-built GlobalFlyer.

An equally happy Sir Richard Branson, the Virgin Atlantic founder who financed the flight, grabbed a bottle of champagne from Fossett, shook it up, and sprayed down his pilot and long-time friend. Fossett then guzzled from the bottle in celebration.

Fossett, 60, already holds the record for flying solo around the globe in a balloon. He failed five times before successfully completing that flight, but needed just one try to make the trip in a plane. This latest adventure gives Fossett yet another aviation record, adding to the many he holds as a balloonist, pilot and sailor.

But there was some doubt if Fossett would make it back to Salina. Fuel sensors in the custom-built plane's 13 tanks differed from readings of how quickly its single jet engine was burning fuel, forcing Fossett's crew to assume that 2,600 of the original 18,100 pounds of fuel "disappeared."

It was unclear whether there was an actual leak or just a problem with the sensors, Fossett's team said. He touched down in Salina at 1:48 p.m.

NYPD: Grand Central sketch no threat

BY TOM HAYS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A drawing of Grand Central Terminal found in the home of a suspect in the Madrid train bombings was "not something that would indicate an immediate threat," Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said.

The crude sketch was "a very basic schematic," and was never deemed cause for alarm, Kelly said on Wednesday in response to a report in the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo*.

The drawing and other data were on a computer disk seized about two weeks after the train bombings in Madrid that killed

191 people on March 11, 2004. *El Mundo* reported. Spanish police turned the disk over to U.S. agents from the FBI and CIA in December.

Kelly said the data also was shared with the New York Police Department's counterterrorism division and city transit officials, who concluded the sketch depicted Grand Central.

The material also included photographs, and a drawing of a private building in the city, which Kelly refused to identify. But an analysis found no indication of a terrorism plot, and authorities quickly decided there was no need to alert the public, he said.

"We didn't see it as a threatening piece of information," he said.

Window washers rescued in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — Two window washers were rescued Thursday through a 10th-floor window after their scaffolding collapsed, leaving them dangling for about 40 minutes off a building in downtown Los Angeles.

Neither was injured in the incident, which was broadcast throughout the United States. Both workers had been wearing safety harnesses attached to the roof of the 12-story building.

Firefighters broke a window and helped them through it.

From The Associated Press

Year later, gays call marriages step forward

BY RUMKINTI CALLIMACHI
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Every morning before she headed out into the world, Evelyn Hall took off her gold ring and placed it on the kitchen counter. When she returned at night, she slipped it back on.

Last year, she put it on for good when she married the woman whose relatives had assumed were her roommate, cracking open the secret life the two had hidden for 46 years.

A total of 2,968 couples wed in

Oregon when the state's most populous county began issuing same-sex marriage licenses a year ago Thursday. Every one of those marriages is now in legal limbo — but gay couples say their legally hazy unions are nonetheless a giant leap forward.

"It was like an out-of-slavery experience. I know it sounds crazy, but we were so closeted," said Mary Beth Bradley, 65, who ran away from home to be with Hall, now 66, when she was 19. "It's a total relief not to have to lie anymore."

Gay weddings swept the coun-

try from coast to coast starting in San Francisco on Feb. 12, 2004, when Mayor Gavin Newsom flung open the city's wedding registry to gay couples.

The movement jumped to Oregon in March, then New Mexico and New Paltz, N.Y. By May, thousands of gay couples were on their way to tying the knot in Massachusetts following a ruling by the state's highest court.

Then the backlash set in.

Last November, voters in Oregon and 10 other states passed ballot measures banning gay marriage. Voters in two other states,

Missouri and Louisiana, banned gay marriages in 2004.

In Oregon and in California, lawsuits are wending their way through the state's legal machinery to determine the legal status of some 7,000 certificates issued to gay couples in the two states.

And while an effort to pass a federal ban on gay marriage failed in the Senate last year, supporters may try again in the new Congress.

Opponents of gay marriage point to these and other successes to say they are winning the battle over the definition of marriage.

They say gay couples are living in a fantasy world, pretending to be married when neither state nor federal law has sanctioned their unions. "They're basically lying to themselves," said Tim Nashif, political director of the Oregon-based Defense of Marriage Coalition, which backed the ballot measure here banning gay marriage.

Gay advocates contend time is on their side. "It's a case of two steps forward for every one step back," said Rebekah Kasic, spokeswoman for Basic Rights Oregon, the state's leading gay rights group.

Zippo upset by ban

PITTSBURGH — Zippo Manufacturing Co., which prides itself on its classic brass-and-chrome butane lighters, says new air travel security regulations could cut into sales by as much as 30 percent.

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration has announced it will ban butane, electric and absorbed fuel lighters aboard all aircraft and in areas behind airport security gates beginning in April. Such lighters already were banned in checked baggage, but passengers previously had been allowed to have two lighters in their carry-on luggage.

Zippo officials will meet with U.S. officials later this month to plead their case. Millions of the metal, rectangular lighters are sold on impulse at duty-free shops and at vacation spots as mementos.

Jackson trial video

SANTA MARIA, California — Jurors in the Michael Jackson case got their first look Thursday at the singer's master bedroom suite where he allegedly molested a 13-year-old boy.

The panel was shown videotape from a Nov. 18, 2003, raid of Jackson's Neverland ranch that included shots of his cluttered bedroom, but none of the sexually explicit magazines that Santa Barbara County District Attorney Thomas Snedden has said were found in the suite.

The video, shot by Sheriff's Department photographer Albert Lafferty, showed a sparkling bedspread, pictures of Marilyn Monroe and Shirley Temple, several TVs and stacks of videos.

Ex-spy cannot sue CIA

WASHINGTON — A former Cold War spy couple who defected to the United States lost their bid to sue the CIA on Wednesday in a Supreme Court case in which they contended the agency reneged on a pledge of lifetime support.

The possibility that an espionage relationship might be revealed if a lawsuit proceeded was unacceptable, Chief Justice William Rehnquist said in a unanimous decision.

Former spies cannot sue to enforce their contracts, the court concluded, because of the secret nature of their agreements.

From The Associated Press

States keep lid on mad cow investigations

BY JON SARCHIE
The Associated Press

DENVER, Colo. — When rumor hit the commodities trading floor in Chicago three years ago that Kansas cattle had contracted foot-and-mouth disease, prices plummeted.

A rumor that lasted only a day cost the beef industry an estimated \$50 million and forced agricultural officials to spend weeks assuring consumers that the food supply was safe.

With this case and others like it in mind, lawmakers across the country are working on ways to keep livestock disease investigations secret until absolutely necessary. Proposals already have passed in Idaho and Wyoming, while lawmakers in Colorado, Maryland and Utah are considering bills this spring.

In Wyoming, false reporting of an animal disease outbreak is a crime under a law that says anyone who consumes ruled up about something that didn't happen," said Mel Coleman Jr., whose family founded Coleman Animal Products Inc., which sells beef from ranches in Colorado and 12 other states.

But Jean Halloran, director of Consumers Union's Consumer Policy Institute in Yonkers, New York, said there are good reasons to fully disclose all information about testing for animal diseases — especially mad cow, the common name for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE.

SUPFIELD, Connecticut — A parole board Thursday rejected a bid by a convicted murderer to be released from prison, sending the former jet-set fugitive who lived in Europe back to prison until 2008.

Alex Kelly, who was charged in 1986 with raping two teenagers while he was a high school wrestling standout, was visibly angry after the ruling and demanded of the three-member board, "Why do you come here?"

Board members said they were



A polled Hereford bull peers over the fence in the yards at the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo in Denver. When rumor of a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak among Kansas cattle hit the commodities trading floor in Chicago three years ago, prices plummeted.

Humans who eat BSE-contaminated tissue can contract a degenerative, fatal brain disorder called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

"In a disease as serious as this, we have to have complete openness and transparency," she said.

However, Halloran also said keeping information secret until confirmation of an infection is an understandable step to protect the industry. That is somewhat more restrictive than how the U.S. Agriculture Department has handled public disclosure.

In December 2003, a few weeks after a Holstein in Washington state was screened for mad cow

disease, the government said the animal had tested "presumptive positive." The government said a few days later the results had been confirmed in independent testing.

No more cases of the disease have been confirmed in the United States, though the government announced three times last year its preliminary rapid-test procedures had provided inconclusive results. That brought harsh criticism from some ranchers.

"It's real easy to get information like a false positive out in public. It's real hard to get the information that it was (proved negative) back out to the public," said

Kathleen Kelly, who runs a ranch in northwestern Colorado and is a founder of R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America.

The preliminary tests for mad cow and some other diseases are designed to be conservative and provide a false positive if there's uncertainty to prompt further, more accurate testing, said Jim Miller, director of policy and initiatives for the Colorado Agriculture Department.

He said a bill moving through the Colorado Legislature would allow the state to keep secret that there was a false positive result. If asked, officials could say only that an investigation is under way.

But Jay Truitt, vice president of an insurance outfit for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, said it's nearly impossible to conceal that an animal is being tested for disease. The beef industry has some 2 million workers.

"It's a bad idea to try to hide this information, based on the fact we've yet to see one of these cases conducted where there aren't leaks," he said. "We think that if somebody in the marketplace knows, everybody in the marketplace should know."

The group differs from R-CALF, saying the government should tell the public about preliminary test results indicating the possibility of disease — but not reveal the identity and location of the animal and its owners until a positive result is confirmed.



Kelly

"For 19 years, Adrienne and I have been trying to get justice for

the brutal rapes this man committed against us," Buchanan said. "He left such an indelible mark on my soul."

Kelly, now 37, has spent eight years in prison, which his victims noted was slightly less than he lived in Europe as a fugitive.

"I wish there was some way I could explain how sorry I am for what I have done," Kelly told the board.

"I take full responsibility for the things I have done. I have caused a lot of pain to a lot of people and I am sorry for that."

The board peppered Kelly with questions about his crimes, his time in Europe and what he has been doing in prison.

When asked why he raped his victims, Kelly said he had been under the belief that the world owed him something.

"I know I'm not the center of the world today," he said.

Just before his trial was to begin, Kelly filed for bankruptcy. While in Europe, he spent time skiing and mountain climbing using money authorities say his wealthy parents sent him.

Cosby tells Enquirer his side of the story

BY NICOLE WEISSENE EGAN

Knight Ridder

PHILADELPHIA — Bill Cosby has finally broken his silence about drugging and groping allegations leveled against him by a former Temple University employee.

And he did it in an exclusive interview with the National Enquirer, offering a vague, sort-of apology to the 31-year-old Canadian woman.

"Looking back on it, I realize that words and actions can be misinterpreted by another person, and unless you're a supreme being, you can't predict what another individual will do," Cosby said in an interview with Enquirer Editor Barry Levine, in the March 14 issue, which hits newsstands on Friday.

While Cosby at first said he did not want



Cosby

to speculate whether the woman's motive was financial gain — "I don't want to go there" — he all but went there, anyway.

"I am not going to give in to people who try to exploit me because of my celebrity status," said Cosby, 67, who denied that he had been the woman's mentor.

"Sometimes you try to help people and it backfires on you and then they try to take advantage of you," Cosby said. "People can soil you by taking advantage."

Although Cosby has been cleared of any criminal charges, he said he was speaking

out in anticipation of a civil suit the Canadian woman is expected to file against him shortly.

Cosby also commented on Tamara Green, a 57-year-old California lawyer who said Cosby had drugged and groped her more than 30 years ago. She told her story first to the Philadelphia Daily News.

"My problem is with some media and how it appeared that Miss Green was allowed to be a 'wrecking ball,'" he told the Enquirer, admitting that her allegations intensified the scandal.

David Brokaw, Cosby's publicist, confirmed that Cosby's interview was legitimate.

Dolores Troiani and Bebe Kivitz, the Canadian woman's attorneys, issued a brief statement.

"We are pleased that after Mr. Cosby's camp initially characterized our client's allegations as bizarre and utterly preposterous, he has acknowledged that it was his conduct after all that formed the basis for her allegations," they said.

Cosby's decision to speak to the supermarket tabloid, with which he has had a contentious relationship over the years, was unusual for a number of reasons. Five years ago, he threatened a \$250 million lawsuit against the Enquirer and demanded a retraction of a story that claimed a then-20-year-old actress had accused him of sexual misconduct. Stuart Zakim, a spokesman for the Enquirer, declined to comment on whether Cosby had filed suit or whether the tabloid had retracted its story.

CIA director Porter Goss 'amazed' by his workload

The Associated Press

SIMI VALLEY, California — In a rare public appearance, CIA Director Porter Goss said he is overwhelmed by the many duties of his job, including devoting five hours out of every day to prepare for and deliver intelligence briefings to President Bush.

"The jobs I'm being asked to do, the five hats that I wear, are too much for this mortal," Goss said. "I'm a little amazed at the workload."

Goss praised Bush's choice for the new job of national intelligence director, John Negroponte. The career diplomat, who is expected to be confirmed by the Senate, will take over several of the duties currently assigned to Goss, including the presidential briefing.

Goss, who has made few public comments beyond congressional testimony, also said the legislation creating the position of director of national intelligence left him unclear on his future role.

"It's got a huge amount of ambiguity in it," he said. "I don't know by law what my direct relationship is with John Negroponte," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld or other top officials involved with intelligence.

Despite the confusion, Goss praised Negroponte's selection.

"I hold him in the very highest regard," he said, noting that the two attended Yale at the same time. "The intelligence community is going to be strengthened and unified and more effective than it has ever been."

"The intelligence community is going to be strengthened and unified and more effective than it has ever been."

Porter Goss

CIA director

Goss, a CIA clandestine officer for 10 years who retired in 1972, said it takes him five hours every day to prepare and deliver the president's daily briefing, calling Bush "a voracious consumer of intelligence."

Legislation signed by Bush in December creates a national intelligence center and the powerful new position Negroponte is nominated for. He will oversee the nation's 15 separate intelligence agencies.

Goss will remain head of the CIA but under the legislation loses his title as director of central intelligence. He said his role under the overhauled system will likely depend on Bush.



AP

Rachel Robinson, widow of baseball great Jackie Robinson, stands with President Bush, left, and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, right, after she received the Congressional Gold Medal for his behalf at the Capitol on Wednesday in Washington.

Baseball great Robinson gets posthumous honor

BY ERICA WERNER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than a half-century after breaking sport's color barrier, Jackie Robinson was posthumously awarded Congress' highest honor, a Congressional Gold Medal.

President Bush gave the medal to Robinson's widow, Rachel Robinson, on Wednesday in a stately ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda. The Democratic and Republican leaders of the House and Senate and baseball commissioner Bud Selig looked on.

"His story is one that shows what one person can do to hold America to account to its founding promise of freedom and equality," Bush said. "It's a lesson for people coming up to see."

"One person can make a big difference in setting the tone of this country."

When Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, he was the first black player on a major league team. He died in 1972 and his No. 42 was retired throughout baseball in 1997.

"This medal confirms what we know," Rachel Robinson said.

"Jackie Robinson stands as a heroic role model for all Americans who believe in justice and equality."

Speakers extolled Robinson as a courageous athlete who suffered taunts and slurs from fans and fellow players, ignoring them as he proved both a brilliant ballplayer and a civil rights hero. The latter role wasn't one he sought but it became inevitable after Dodgers owner Branch Rickey bucked much of popular opinion and signed him.

"He knew he was a symbol and a barrier-breaker, and that staying the course would have consequences for millions of people to come," Rep. Mel Watt, D-N.C., chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, said.

Robinson stayed the course, and excelled. He was rookie of the year in 1947, and was voted the league's Most Valuable Player in 1949 when he batted .342 and drove in 124 runs. He played 10 seasons with the Brooklyn Dodgers, often at second base.

He was elected to baseball's Hall of Fame in 1962.

Charles tapes seized from recording engineer

BY GEOFF BOUCHER

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — A recording engineer who worked for Ray Charles for two decades and who won four Grammys last month for his work on the late singer's final album was arrested four days later after police pried open the door of his Burbank loft and found 300 original master recordings that belonged to Charles.

Terry Howard, 48, was in custody Wednesday after his arrest Feb. 17, but his attorney, Steve Cron, said they would post bail Thursday.

A judge reduced it to \$1 million to \$100,000 this week.

"These are recordings that he contractually and logically had every right to have in his possession," Cron said. A recording engineer, he said, often works at home.

Los Angeles Police Detective Donald O. Hryciak said the boxes of recordings carted out of Howard's home, which consisted of a bed, refrigerator and other amenities in a commercial property in a recording industry district — were not digitally recorded discs brought home for tinkering.

The detective said the stacks of music included old reel-to-reel recordings of Charles and other artists whose work was stored in the singer's library.

"There were tapes that were stored in climate-controlled rooms at Ray Charles Enterprises, and they are so fragile that they need to be heated to be played or else they can be destroyed," Hryciak said. "When we got to them, some of them were molding."

Jerry Digney, Charles' former publicist and spokesman for his estate, said in a statement: "Whatever the outcome, Ray Charles Enterprises puts a high value on its assets, especially its master tapes, and will do its utmost to ensure their safety and proper handling along with protecting other irreplaceable valuables belonging to the late entertainer and to his estate."

Howard's attorney and his credits describe him as an Ohio native, an Air Force veteran and a highly acclaimed technician in his field who not only had the trust of Charles for years but worked with Barbra Streisand, Stevie Wonder, Fleetwood Mac and Tom Jones.

A source in the recording industry said Howard was "a guy they brought in when they needed him, a guy they trusted."

Patients benefit from experiments

Terminally ill can improve by participating in studies

BY STEPHANIE NANO
The Associated Press

People with advanced cancers who try experimental treatments are helped more than previously thought, according to the most comprehensive look at U.S. government-sponsored tests over a decade.

These are patients who haven't benefited from other therapies and have few options left. But testing new treatments on them has been criticized by some who feel the patients are given false hope as previous reviews showed they only worked in about 4 percent to 6 percent.

However, this latest and largest study found that about 11 percent were helped by experimental treatment, and in some cases as many as 27 percent were better off.

"The numbers aren't as bleak

as they sometimes are portrayed," said one of the researchers, Christine Grady, of the National Institutes of Health's Department of Clinical Bioethics. "But the numbers don't tell the whole story."

She said their review covered tests on different types of drugs and vaccines, combinations of drugs and some that had already been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Only 22 percent of the reviewed tests were for a single chemotherapy drug; that was the only kind that showed low overall response.

She said patients who want to volunteer for early drug testing should look at the details for the type of experiment they are considering.

"Phase I trials are not all alike," she said.

The first phase of drug testing

in people is primarily designed to see if the treatment is safe and to find the right dose for future tests, though doctors also hope to get some idea of whether it works.

Grady and her colleagues analyzed 460 tests with 11,935 participants, including some previously unpublished tests. They were done between 1991 and 2002 and were paid for by the NIH's National Cancer Institute. Their review did not include tests financed by drug makers or those done on children. The research appeared in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Overall, about 3 percent saw their cancers disappear and about 8 percent had a substantial shrinkage of their tumors. Additionally, 34 percent saw some tumor shrinkage or saw their disease stabilized.

The rate of deaths blamed on

the treatments stayed the same, about half a percent. Side effect information was only available for about a third of participants; about 14 percent had at least one serious side effect.

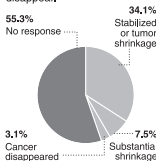
"It does lend support to the statement we frequently make: If you're a candidate for a clinical trial, it's almost always the smartest thing you can do," said Dr. Larry Norton, deputy physician-in-chief at New York's Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He said cancer patients need and want more access to such tests.

"People really desperately want to receive therapy that stands any chance of benefiting them, and of benefiting humanity in general," he said.

Dr. Razelle Kurzrock, director of the Phase I program at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson

Alternate cancer treatment results

The latest and largest study on experimental cancer treatments found 44.7 percent of patients had positive results, including 3.1 percent who saw their cancer disappear.



Source: New England Journal of Medicine AP

Cancer Center in Houston, said patients say their quality of life is improved just by "not giving up." "Patients should be reassured and physicians who are referring patients should not feel that this is an ethical dilemma," said Kurzrock, co-author of an accompanying editorial in the journal.

Study: Leaky heart valves pose threat

BY STEPHANIE NANO
The Associated Press

People with severely leaky heart valves that cause no symptoms — a situation thought to be relatively harmless — actually are in danger of dying and should consider surgery to get the problem fixed right away, a new study suggests.

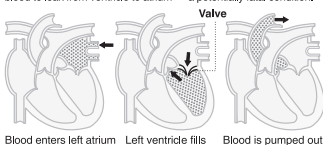
Such people are five times more likely to die of a heart problem or develop heart failure or an irregular heartbeat than those with mild leakage, researchers at the Mayo Clinic reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Their study involved the mitral valve, which connects the upper left chamber with the heart's main pumping chamber. If the valve's two flaps don't close tightly, blood can leak back into the upper chamber when the heart contracts.

Most people don't feel anything, but if it gets gets worse, they can develop shortness of

Mitral valve's role in the heart's work

Oxygenated blood from lungs enters the heart in the left atrium, which squeezes blood into left ventricle, which then pumps blood via the aorta throughout the body. A defective mitral valve allows blood to leak from ventricle to atrium — a potentially fatal condition.



Source: New England Journal of Medicine

breath, fatigue, dizziness and palpitations.

The Mayo researchers used a relatively new ultrasound technique to take measurements of the hearts of 456 patients who

had leaky valves.

"When it's severe, it's fixable. And we can determine when it's severe, now with new techniques," said Dr. Maurice Enriquez-Sarano, who led the study.

Brain 'pacemaker' could lift depression

BY CAROLYN ABRAHAM
Toronto Globe and Mail

Jeanne Harris had felt so depressed for so long that she was willing to let doctors drill two holes in her head and implant electrodes in her brain, in one of the most radical mood-altering experiments on the medical books.

Depression first seized Harris 10 years ago. Since then, she had sobbed through an entire summer on her condo balcony, spent six months in bed, shunned food and friends and fought off steady thoughts of suicide.

Nothing had worked, neither medication nor psychotherapy.

But today, two years after she agreed to take part in the land-

mark Canadian experiment, Harris could hardly be happier for the electrodes buried in her brain: two wires, nearly as thick as spaghetti and a foot long, pulsing 130 times a second to silence the negativity of her mind.

"It is an unbelievable, dramatic change for me," said the 39-year-old Harris. "For the first time in 10 years, I feel alive. I have energy, it's like a light bulb being turned on."

Four of the six patients who participated in the unprecedented investigation, led by scientists at the Baycrest Center's Rotman Research Institute and the University of Toronto, report experiences similar to Harris.

"Some people will say this is pretty extreme, but this condition is pretty extreme," said clinical neurologist Helen Mayberg, describing the therapy known as deep brain stimulation, or DBS. "I never could have dreamed that we'd have the kind of clinical effect that we've seen."

Mayberg is lead author of the study to be published this week in the journal *Neuron*.

DBS is designed to electrically stimulate only the brain region known to be overactive in people with the condition.

It is part of an expanding field known as "brain pacemakers," in which doctors implant devices that electrically alter neural circuits to treat disorders such as Parkinson's disease and epilepsy.

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STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Millionaire takes aim at airport ID policy

BY DENNIS RODDY
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

SAN FRANCISCO — John Gilmore's splendid isolation began July 4, 2002, when, with defiance afoot, he strolled to the Southwest Airlines counter at Oakland Airport and presented his ticket.

The gate agent asked for his ID.

Gilmore asked her why.

It is the law, she said.

Gilmore asked to see the law.

Nobody could produce a copy. To date, nobody has.

What started out as a weekend trip to Washington became a crawl through the courts in search of an answer to Gilmore's question: Why? In post 9/11 America, asking "Why?" when someone from an airline asks for identification can start some interesting arguments. Gilmore, who learned to argue on the debate team in his hometown of Bradford, Pa., has started an argument that, should it reach its intended target, the U.S. Supreme Court, would turn the rules

Entrepreneur, unwilling to show identification without seeing law that requires it, grounded

of national security on end, reach deep into the tug-of-war between private rights and public safety, and play havoc with the Department of Homeland Security.

At the heart of Gilmore's stubbornness is the worry about the thin line between safety and tyranny.

"Basically what they want is a show of obedience," Gilmore said.

As happens to the disobedient, Gilmore is grounded. He is rich — he estimates his net worth at \$30 million — and cannot fly inside the United States. Nor can he ride Antrak, rent a room at most major hotels, or easily clear security in the courthouses where his case, Gilmore v. Ashcroft, is to be heard. In a time when more and more people and places demand some form of government-issued identification, Gilmore offers only his 49-year-old face.

He was employee No. 5 at Sun Microsystems, which made Unix, the free software of the Web, the world standard. He japed the government by cracking its premier security code. He campaigned to keep the software that runs the Internet free of charge. After he left Sun, Gilmore started his own firm, sold it for more money than he seems to have bothered to count and has since devoted his time to giving it away to favored causes: drug law reform, a campaign to standardize computer voting machines and the Electronic Frontier Foundation, something of an ACLU for the Information Age.

Yes, he said, there is a certain odd flavor to the notion that someone shouldn't have to show ID to board a plane, but with magnetometers at the gates, guards with security wands, fortified cockpit doors and sky

marshals abounding, Gilmore is asking just how much citizens are giving up when they hand their driver's licenses to a third party, in this case an airline, where it is put into a database they cannot see, to meet a law that, as it turns out, they are not allowed to read.

Gilmore will show ID for an international flight because he doesn't expect to set the rules for other nations.

"I'm not willing to show a passport to travel in my own country," Gilmore said. "I used to laugh at countries that had internal passports. And it's happened here and people don't even seem to know about it."

The regulation under which the Transportation Safety Administration, an arm of the Department of Homeland Security, instructs the airlines to collect such identification is classified as "Sensitive Security Information."

That, says Gilmore's lawyer, Jim Harrison, is the enigma of the case: "It's about the ability of the citizens of this country to be able to move about the country, to move about freely, without being subject to laws they can't see."

With upcoming flight, questions surround NASA

BY LEE BOWMAN

Scraps Howard News Service

NASA's loss of the space shuttle Columbia and all seven astronauts aboard in 2003 rocked a space agency already hurting from a tight budget, multiple missions and uncertainty of its future. Now, with a launch window of May 15 through June 3 set for the flight of the shuttle Discovery, NASA's readiness to fly is again coming under intense scrutiny.

In fact, both the Discovery flight and the flight of sister ship Atlantis, set for July, are considered experimental trips to confirm that new safety techniques work, with extraordinary precautions and new backups in place.

Here, in question-and-answer format, some of the facts and doubts that still surround the mission are explained.

Q If the shuttle was damaged from debris from the fuel tank, and they have fixed that flaw, what's the concern?

A The way the tank is attached to the shuttle and the way foam is sprayed onto the tank have been changed, and there have been extensive computer and lab tests that indicate they'll work. But some small bits of foam are still expected to fall off the tank, just, hopefully, nothing big enough to do serious damage to the skin of the spacecraft.

Q There was a lot of criticism that NASA didn't have adequate resources on the ground or in space to spot the debris or the damage to the wing. How has that changed for the new mission?

A The Columbia Accident Investigation Board recommended new ground and in-flight systems that use video, still and still cameras to provide clear photos. There are also provisions for using images from military spy satellites. Going beyond the board's recommendations, NASA is even insisting that the first few flights be done in daylight to give maximum visibility to anything that goes wrong.



NASA/AP

Space shuttle Discovery's external fuel tank is lowered into position Monday at the vehicle assembly building at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. Discovery is scheduled for launch May 15.

Q What happens if all this surveillance detects something hitting the shuttle?

A Discovery will carry new sensors to detect damage to the hull of the ship, a robotic boom with a camera in the cargo bay that can do inspections, and the crew will have the ability to do space walks to survey in person.

If damage is found, and it's not too severe, an attempt to repair the damage will be made with any of five repair kits that have been developed.

Q Will NASA risk another crew returning with a damaged ship and untested repair techniques?

A Along with many safety experts outside NASA, shuttle Commander Eileen Collins and her fellow crew members have expressed reservations about that. The alternative would be to dock with the space station and "shelter" there until another shuttle could reach them.

Q Could NASA survive another shuttle failure, even if the crew were rescued?

A Another accident might well end the shuttle program and the space station, but NASA or some remnant would remain because the United States is a space-faring nation with many interests and too much prestige at stake to abandon human space flight entirely.



AP

Lehigh University professor Arnold Marder holds up pieces of debris from the space shuttle Columbia disaster during his class Monday at the university's Whitaker Laboratory's Failure-Analysis Lab in Bethlehem, Pa. Students at the school are studying the debris.

College students examine pieces of doomed shuttle

BY MICHAEL RUBINKAM
The Associated Press

BETHLEHEM, Pa. — When the space shuttle Columbia broke apart over Texas, it scattered 84,000 pieces of debris, most of which have never been closely analyzed.

Now, two years after the disaster that killed seven astronauts, Lehigh University students are getting a rare look at these unexamined parts — and NASA hopes their findings might contribute to the design of the next generation of space vehicles.

The eastern Pennsylvania school known for its engineering and science programs is the first university in the nation to be given access to the shuttle debris. A shipment of 50 pieces arrived last week.

Seniors are looking at each part under powerful electron

and light microscopes, trying to determine when and why the part stopped working and how it reacted under the extreme forces to which it was subjected.

Microscopy will reveal the "telltale signs of the mode of failure," said Lehigh professor Arnold Marder, a materials science expert.

NASA's collaboration with Lehigh is part of a program under which pieces of the shuttle are being released to the aerospace industry for research. Students will present their findings to NASA officials in April.

While NASA scientists have given every piece of debris a cursory examination, most of their efforts were focused on the bulk of foam that tore away from the fuel tank during liftoff and caused a gash in the shuttle's left wing. That gash led to Columbia's destruction during re-entry.

FACES

Designer gives birth

Designer Stella McCartney and her husband have named their infant son.



McCartney

Willis, a former magazine publisher, and McCartney, 33, were married in August 2003. It is the couple's first child.

Stamos marriage is over

The marriage between Rebecca Romijn and John Stamos is officially over. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Harvey A. Silberman signed off on the family law judgment Thursday, nearly a year after the couple announced they were sepa-

rating after five years of marriage.

The marriage was officially terminated as of Tuesday, according to the document. The couple have no children.

Romijn, 32, is filming "Man About Town" with Ben Affleck. Her screen credits include "Rollerball" and "Femme Fatale." Stamos, 41, starred on television's "Full House" from 1987 to 1995. He has a new ABC comedy, "Jake in Progress."

Berry stalker faces court

A judge in Santa Monica, Calif., issued a three-year restraining order against a man who allegedly sent threatening letters to Halle Berry's home.

Superior Court Judge Linda K. Lefkowitz ruled that Robert Sawyer of San Pablo, about 15 miles northeast of San Francisco, was to stay 100 yards away from Berry and to keep the same distance from her home, work and vehicle.

The order, which expires in 2008, also prohibits him from contacting the actress by phone, mail or e-mail.

Berry wasn't in court Monday when the judge made her decision.

Court records filed on Berry's behalf ear-

lier this month claim Sawyer's letters talk about "delusions he has about a purported romantic relationship [with the actress]."

Sawyer was contacted by Berry's personal security in November advising him not to reach the actress anymore. But Sawyer sent more letters to Berry, including one that said he would visit her on Valentine's Day "to fulfill his delusions of a romantic relationship."

Chaka Khan's son charged

The son of R&B singer Chaka Khan surrendered to police after he learned that prosecutors had charged him with murder in the shooting death of a 17-year-old boy, police said.

Damien Patrick Holland, 25, surrendered Monday with his lawyers at his side, according to a printed LAPD statement. He is being held on \$2 million bail.

Prosecutors allege that Holland shot Christopher Bailey of Los Angeles at a September 2004 party as the two struggled for a gun during a fight.

Khan, 51, is known for hits such as "Tell Me Something Good" and "I Feel for You."

More money from 'Rings'

Peter Jackson's production company sued New Line Cinema on claims it has been shortchanged on profits from the first film in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

Wingnut Films alleges in a federal lawsuit filed Monday in Los Angeles that New Line and subsidiary Katia Motion Pictures failed to properly calculate revenue, including revenue from DVD sales, from 2001's "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring."

The lawsuit doesn't specify an amount sought in damages but claims the movie grossed more than \$314 million in box office receipts in the United States and more than \$556 million overseas, plus revenue from video and merchandise sales.

A phone call to a New Line spokesman, wasn't immediately returned late Monday. Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Jackson

Mirah's instant gratification

Singer-songwriter won't let business interfere with creativity

BY DAN DeLUCA

Knight Rider Newspapers

MIRAH YAH YAH YAH Zeil-yin is picking at her granola, talking about what it was like when she started writing songs, and what it's like now. "You know how little kids, when you watch them, they pick their noses and do amazing drawings and take off their clothes and pee in their pants and nothing is really that big of a deal?"

Kids are "like amazing complete beings within themselves. But at some point you start to go: 'Oh, you're watching me! Maybe I should stand like this?' Or maybe I should do this? You start to think about it. And it's awful."

The indie singer-songwriter, who performs as Mirah (pronounced MEEER-ah), grew up here. On a recent Saturday, back home from Portland, Ore., where she lives, Mirah sat for an interview along with her sister, Emily.

Mirah, 30, began writing songs when she was studying at liberal-arts haven Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash., the town that's home to influential label K Records, which has put out albums by Sleater-Kinney, Beck, and Beat Happening. Her first album, the low-fi "You Think It's Like This, But Really It's Like This," came out in K in 2000, and it was followed by the stunning "Advisory Committee" in 2001, "Songs From the Black Mountain Music Project" (a collaboration with Ginger Brooks Takahashi), and last year's quietly stirring "C'mon Miracle."

In 2004, she also released "To All We Stretch the Open Arm," a subtle antiwar record, recorded with Portland's Black Cat Orchestra, that mixed original

and Argentinian folk songs with covers of Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen and Kurt Cobain. She commands a cult audience in this country and abroad. Her songs set her apart from the guitar-strumming pack with telling details in the music and lyrics that can bring the listener up short, such as on the sexually frank "Murphy Bed" or "You Think," or the near-orchestral epic "Cold, Cold Water," which opened "Advisory Committee" with a flourish.

She sings in a girlish voice that seems utterly guileless, but she says maintaining that childlike quality, and not letting creativity be undermined by self-consciousness, is not as easy as it may sound.

"I think I actually got into making music because it was immediately gratifying," she says. "When I first started writing songs, I couldn't even play the guitar. I could play, like, one string. I wasn't very conscious of what I was doing or what was happen-

ing. I was just making music ...

"But the skills you need to write songs and play music don't have anything to do with having a music-theory background or having played since you were a kid. It's just not important. You can just start doing it."

The Zeil-yins grew up in an environment conducive to creati-

ty. Their mother, Elizabeth, is a painter, and father Jay, "has a really eclectic musical taste," says Emily, 32. "World music and klezmer and gospel, and all kinds of stuff. He gave me this Nina Simone record when I was 17, which changed my life."

For a time, the family lived in a commune in West Virginia, and the alternative lifestyle rubbed off on the children: Mirah, whose middle name means good day or holiday in Hebrew, went on a peace march in Russia when she was 12, and spent her junior year at Evergreen building houses in Norway and learning to speak Norwegian. Every winter, she works for

two months at her brother Dylan's farm, north of Scranton, Pa., harvesting maple syrup.

Phil Elvrum, of the band the Microphones, produces Mirah's albums, in which spacious arrangements are flavored with out-of-the-ordinary instrumental touches, from ukuleles to pump organs to tape loops.

He's enamored of her "powerfully beautiful voice" but says she's also "very capable of making me into her songs. ... She's generous with her personal 'work,' but also sturdy enough to have it still be unquestionably hers when it's done."

Mirah says she has never had an overarching plan for her career, which she likens to Kason that "has me a little concerned. But one of the reasons that I don't have a plan [now] is that I didn't (originally) think it was fine. But at the same time, I think maybe things would be better if I did have a plan."

Mirah, who makes herself, also worries about the distractions of the music business getting in the way of her creativity. To that end, she puts herself in situations that force her to stretch herself creatively.

In 2003, she traveled to Buenos Aires, where she recorded two songs with Kason that wound up on "C'mon Miracle," and later this year she plans to retreat to a Puget Sound island with Elvrum to write and record.

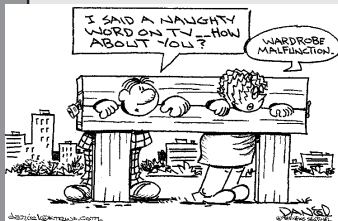
"The business aspect is very distracting; the state of mind I have to be in is counterproductive to being a creative artist," Mirah says. "It makes me have to think about myself. And I want to be able to do things."



KRT

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



CHARLIE DANIEL/Scripts Howard



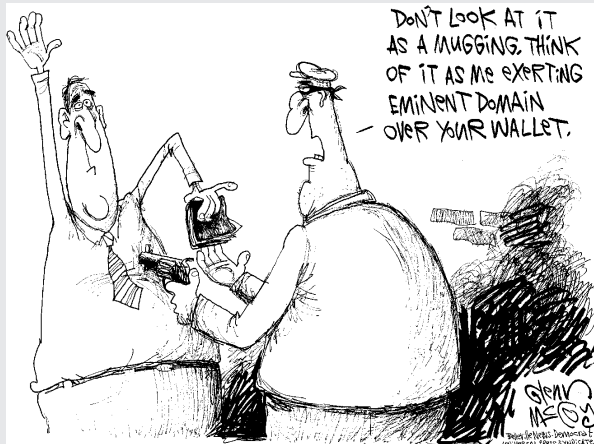
GLENN MCCOY/Universal Press Syndicate



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GLENN MCCOY/Universal Press Syndicate

Bizarre goat trade

PA MOUNT PLEASANT — Four men stole, killed and butchered a goat so they could trade its meat for crack cocaine, police said.

Authorities charged the four men with theft, receiving stolen property, cruelty to animals, and criminal conspiracy on Tuesday for the Dec. 24 incident in Bullskin Township, about 35 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

James Walter Albright, 37, dragged the 4-year-old pygmy goat from its pen with a rope and tied the animal to a shrub, where he and Charles W. Smith Jr., 20, killed the animal by beating its head with a hammer or a steel pipe, police said.

The men then took the goat to Smith's residence, where his father, Charles W. Smith, 48, and Gilbert Wesley Fisch, 38, skinned the animal and cut it up, police said.

8 years for fatal crash

HI HONOLULU — A highway racer who caused a fatal traffic accident was sentenced in Circuit Court to eight years in prison.

Nicholas Tudisco, 21, pleaded no contest in November to manslaughter for the death of Elizabeth Kekoa, 58, a teacher at Holy Trinity School.

Tudisco had admitted he was going more than 100 miles per hour on the H-1 freeway in August 2001 when his car crashed into Kekoa's van.

Kekoa's husband, Wally, who was driving the van and her mother, Rose Davis, were also injured in the crash. Tudisco was not hurt.

Home had border tunnel

CA SAN DIEGO — U.S. and Mexican authorities investigating a cross-border tunnel found the entrance in a middle-class residence in Mexicali, Mexico, and believe the passage ends about 100 yards north in a residential area of Calexico.

It was the third tunnel discovered in the area in 15 months. Authorities suspect the tunnel was used to ferry drugs across the border.

The 3-by-5-foot passage, which started in a back bedroom of the Mexicali home, is equipped with ventilation and lighting systems, and lined with wood beams for support. Outside the entrance, a closed-circuit camera system provided security, Mexican authorities said.

The residence was found abandoned, and no arrests have been made.

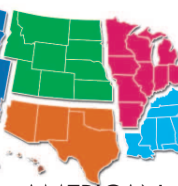
Limits on beach surreys

VA VIRGINIA BEACH — The city is considering limits on the gawky, pedal-powered surreys that tourists ply along the resort's beach front.

The four-wheel tourist-mobility has grown from 10 in 1998 to more than 170 today. There are about 28 rental establishments in the resort. City officials want to limit the number of surreys to five per operator, for a total of 140, and charge a \$100 annual fee for each surrey.

For police, it's a matter of public safety.

Loaded with four to six adults, surreys can easily top 1,000 pounds. "They can get a lot of mo-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

mentum," said police Capt. Dennis Free, who was smacked by a surfer on his rounds last summer.

"We're seeing enough minor incidents that we want to get some intervention before something major happens."

Toddler missing in river

TX EAGLE PASS — Authorities on both sides of the border were trying to find a 20-month-old boy who fell into the Rio Grande while being carried across the river from Mexico.

The toddler and his mother were part of a group of six undocumented immigrants crossing the river near Eagle Pass. Border Patrol agents heard the woman's cries.

"Her 1½-year-old boy had slipped into the current as they crossed. Someone was carrying him, and the current was too much. He lost his grip on the child," said Dennis Smith, a Border Patrol spokesman.

U.S. agents have been searching by ground and air, along with Mexican emergency crews.

Pharmacist's refusal

WI MADISON — A Roman Catholic pharmacist who blocked a woman's attempt to fill a prescription for birth control pills should be reprimanded and required to attend ethics classes, a judge ruled.

Administrative Law Judge Colleen Baird recommended the punishment for Neil Nosen of St. Paul, Minn., who said it would be a sin under his religion to provide a contraceptive.

He refused in July 2002 to fill



Heels over head

Patrick Dabrowski, 6, falls out of his sled while enjoying a snow day from school in Bristol, Conn.

the woman's prescription himself or transfer it to another pharmacy.

Krystal Williams-Oby, said Wisconsin law does not address the issue, nor do state rules established by the Pharmacy Examining Board.

Baird noted that state rules prohibit pharmacists from engaging in practices that could be a "danger to the health, welfare or safety of a patient or public." Baird found Nosen put the woman at risk of an unwanted pregnancy through his actions.

The judge's recommendation goes to the pharmacy board.

Settlement in mice suit

MD BALTIMORE — An Indiana company has agreed to pay \$7.2 million to settle all claims it supplied researchers on aging with genetically modified mice that did not have the traits promised.

Federal prosecutors said Tuesday that Harlan, Sprague, Dawley Inc. of Indianapolis supplied the mice under contract to the National Institute of Aging, based in Bethesda, Md.

The exact nature of the research and the specific traits that the laboratory mice were supposed to have were not disclosed.

Sign-wearing sentence

FL ORLANDO — If drivers can't read Erik Rivera's sign, they might be going too fast.

Rivera used to speed and street race on late nights through South Orange County. Now he goes at a slower pace, wearing a sign: "Don't Street Race. I Lost my Drivers License for 3 Years."

Orange Circuit Judge John H. Adams Sr. ordered 24-year-old Rivera, of Kissimmee, to wear the sandwich-board sign as a deterrent to other racers.

Rivera was arrested in June and convicted in November of fleeing and eluding deputies and resisting law enforcement without violence.

Rivera will wear the 2-foot-by-3-foot sign for 50 consecutive Sundays from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m., when other young people are out racing. He must also pay for the sign and attend a special driving school.

Escapee faces charges

ME LEWISTON — A 17-year-old escapee from the Long Creek Youth Development Center faces a charge of attempted murder in the weekend shooting of a Lewiston man through the window of his first-floor apartment, police said.

The shooting victim, Tyler Morin, 19, was listed in stable condition at Central Maine Medical Center, where he was being treated for gunshot wounds to the chest and shoulder.

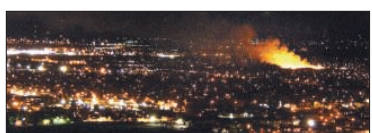
Twenty minutes after Morin died 911 early Sunday to report the shooting, a Sagadahoc County sheriff's deputy spotted the suspect in a vehicle in Topsham and pulled it over. The youth fled into a wooded area, said Lewiston Police Sgt. Michael McGonagle.

McGonagle said the boy was eventually returned to the South Portland youth center, from which he had escaped Oct. 30. In addition to attempted murder, he faces charges of burglary of a motor vehicle, eluding police and escape.



Wicked big lobster

Bubba, left, a 23-pound lobster pulled from the waters off Nantucket, Mass., is shown next to an average lobster (1.5 pounds) at Wholey's Fish Market in Pittsburgh. The big crustacean, probably 30 to 50 years old, was to get a landlocked home, but he died in Pittsburgh Zoo's quarantine area. The cause of death was probably stress from the move, officials said.



Burning brightly

A fire in Billings, Mont., is seen from three miles away. An unattended living facility under construction was destroyed by the fire. Two townhouses were severely damaged. Fire Marshal Frank Oedermann said it will be quite a while before they can determine what caused the blaze.



Leapin' lizards! He's good!

Ben Gregory, 12, hops through some tricks on a pogo stick to impress his friends after school in Granite City, Ill.



Giant tortoise rescued Wyoming Game and Fish Department herpetological coordinator Bill Turner takes photos and measurements of a giant tortoise east of Cheyenne, Wyo. The reptile, an unlikely visitor to Wyoming, was found near a road by Terri Smith, who was walking her dog. Smith's husband, Ken Smith, brought the tortoise back to their home until Game and Fish could examine it. They told the Smiths it probably was a desert tortoise, native to the Southwest.



Dressed for the weather A dog named Tyson of Brookline, Mass., looks pretty sulky about wearing a raincoat while walking with his owner, Fatima Fatal, in Brookline, Mass.



Sending it soaring Kersh Peterson, a sophomore at Clemson University, takes a break from studies to help his friend, Daniel Craft, launch his stunt kite on Kite Hill in Clemson, S.C.



Think he's confused? An American robin feeds on berries in a tree near Ann Arbor, Mich., on a snowy day. Traditionally, robins are the harbingers of spring, but Wednesday's forecast calls for scattered snow showers.

No pay, no homework

CA BERKELEY — Students in the Berkeley school district aren't getting written homework assignments because teachers are refusing to grade work on their own time after two years without a pay raise.

"Teachers do a lot with a little. All of a sudden, a lot of things that they do are just gone. It's demoralizing," said Rachel Baker, who has a son in kindergarten.

The action was organized by the Berkeley Federation of Teachers, which wants a cost-of-living increase next year.

District Superintendent Michele Lawrence expressed sympathy for the teachers but said there isn't money for raises. She blamed Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger not providing as much money to education as promised.

Chicken fights busted up

GA CLARKESVILLE — Authorities arrested 33 people after busting a chicken fight.

The Habersham County sheriff's office received an anonymous tip that a fight was being held. Officers arrived about 100 people fled the venue, described by Sheriff DeRay Fincher as a "full-fledged operation," where bleachers were set up and spectators were charging admission.

The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources took custody of the chickens after no one stepped forward to claim the live animals, which had to be separated to prevent them from fighting.

Hypnotist accused

CT MILFORD — A British hypnotist charged with having sex with patients under his spell and secretly videotaping the encounters was sentenced Monday to 90 days in prison and fines possible deportation to England.

Michael Johnstone, 64, had pleaded no contest to reckless endangerment and breach of peace. As part of a plea deal, he received three years in prison with all but 90 days suspended. He will not have to register as a sex offender or attend sex therapy.

Authorities said Johnstone confessed to having sex and videotaping the trysts with a half-dozen patients who came to him for anxiety treatment. The incidents allegedly occurred between 2000 and 2003.

Prosecutors said immigration officials are investigating and may detain Johnstone after his sentence.

Beating by cops alleged

WI MILWAUKEE — Three police officers were charged in the beating of a man outside a house party in what witnesses have called a racially motivated attack.

Witnesses said about 10 people surrounded Frank Jude Jr., beat him and kicked him in the head while holding his arms behind his back when he was face down in the street.

According to claims filed against the city by Jude and others, the white officers — Jon Bartlett, Daniel L. Masarik and Andrew R. Spengler — used racial slurs as they attacked Jude, who is black.

The three officers, who all remain suspended with pay, were re-

leased after posting \$5,000 bail each.

Search for arsonist

DC WASHINGTON — Investigators on Tuesday upped the ante in their search for a serial arsonist.

They nearly tripled the reward — from \$35,000 to \$100,000 — for information leading to an arrest and conviction of the person behind more than 40 fires.

The arrests began March 8, 2003, in the District of Columbia.

Since then, there have also been cases in Prince George's and Montgomery counties in Maryland, and Fairfax County and the city of Alexandria in Virginia. The most recent was Dec. 10 in Northeast Washington.

Forty-five fires and one attempted arson are linked to the suspect. A Northeast Washington fire on June 5, 2003 — one of two that day — killed an elderly woman.

Taser sparks criticism

CA AURORA — Police found themselves in the crosshairs of public criticism after officers used a Taser stun gun to subdue a man accused of pilfering from a salad bar at a Chuck E. Cheese's pizzeria packed with families and young children.

"They beat this man in front of all these kids, then Tased him in my sister's lap," said witness Felicia Mayo, who was at the establishment with her 7-year-old son. "They had no regard for the effect this would have on the kids. This is Chuck E. Cheese, you know."

Police responded to Chuck E. Cheese's after a manager complained that a patron had refused to show proof that he had paid for food.

Church, school vandalism

CA DAVIS — Swastikas, racist graffiti and satanic messages were spray-painted on two schools and a church, stunning members of this liberal college town and sparking a multiracial hate-crimes investigation.

"I'm just so sickened by what's happened," said Mayor Ruth Asmundson.

The vandalism occurred less than two years after the city and its school district held a series of emotional public meetings about hate crimes committed by a few of the city's youths. At the meetings, dozens of students and local residents described acts of bigotry and racism in the community that they believed were being ignored by local officials.

Dolphin release

FL PORT ST. LUCIE — Bashful, Sleepy and Sneezey — three of the 37 rough-toothed dolphins that beached themselves on the Florida coast in August — are heading home.

Officials with Mote Marine Laboratory, where the three dolphins survived hurricanes and the deaths of four pod mates, plan to release the deep-sea animals in the Atlantic Ocean.

The release is the culmination of efforts by scores of veterinarians and volunteers who fought to keep the stranded dolphins alive after they were found in the surf just south of the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

A new cycle for communication has started with Mercury entering Aries. This transit usually accompanies big news, which could be global, personal or both. The moon in Capricorn brings focus to traditional roles, but we'll be reinterpreting how we play them over the weekend. Be open to expressing yourself in a way you've never tried before.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

MARCH 5. Your commitment to self-improvement makes this a banner year. Keep exploring zany ideas through the spring — your love life will benefit from the creative infusion. A persistent problem is solved in May. Finances can be better applied somewhere else as a result. Your best signs for love are Capricorn and Leo. You could marry in August.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Calm, cool and collected gets things done. In order to make time your supporter instead of your enemy, recognize that time shifts with your state of consciousness — and you're the one in control of your state of consciousness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Nobody gives you power — you just take it. The initiative you show, especially socially and personally, makes you so attractive that wherever you go now, you'll have admirers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Lack of enthusiasm from the rest of the world has deflated your attitude somewhat. Do what it takes to put the "Wow" back in your life. Don't stop until you've got raving fans. An Aries will be among them.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Outreach is key. The more you insulate, the less you enjoy. So even if you're not in the mood, kick yourself out of the house. Make sure your social swirl includes people with intriguing backgrounds and extraordinary taste.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're on a mission, and nothing will get in the way of your mission. And you're no lieutenant commander, either —

you're an admiral on the great seas of life. Believe in your enormous power.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The curtain is rising, and you're still scrambling to assemble the set for your second act. You're caught

creating the illusion of your life. People are fascinated by the behind-the-scenes version of you and could fall in love.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Reacting to outer chaos is draining and unnecessary. Stop yourself from feeling the victim — you're not the victim. Get centered, and dwell on this belief instead: You have enough of everything you need to succeed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Self-control is the main issue, as there is now a specific outcome you cannot achieve given your current habits. Know your enemy, even when it appears in a socially acceptable and cleverly disguised form.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've got a case of compare-and-contrast-itis. Your soul's expression is unique and cannot happen through anyone else. So stop measuring and judging, and start expressing what's inimitably you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There is no "dirty work" just that you are more or less suited for. You get a sense of accomplishment from doing the very job someone else hates, and someone else is thrilled to take that nagging task off your list.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll experience a magical synchronization with the fellow man. Like the Chinese people practicing tai chi by the Yangtze River, no one is in charge, and yet everyone seems to be moving together perfectly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Intellectually, you know the value of proper rest, but your busy mind won't stop chattering long enough to let you really relax. Seek external assistance in the form of guided meditation or a really boring television program.

Creators Syndicate



Holiday Mathis

Calvin and Hobbes

Jump Start

Zits

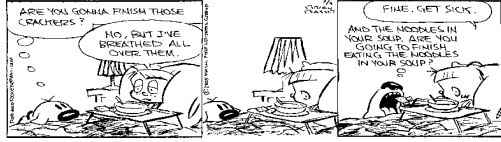
Cathy

Hi and Lois

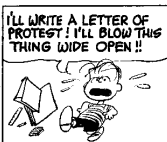
Beetle Bailey

Red and Rover

Better or Worse



Peanuts



Foxrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



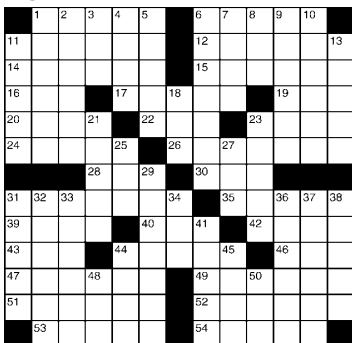
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Surround
6 Superhero garb
11 Whopper component
12 Reunion group
14 "Nighthawks" painter
15 Corn cooker
16 Spoonbender
17 Degas
19 Afternoon social
20 Robin Williams role
22 "Le Coq" —
23 ilk
24 Wheat bundle
26 Self-reproach
28 Trinity member
30 Mom's guy
31 Bundt, for one
35 Watergate evidence
39 Bread spread
40 Heavy weight
42 Unaltered
43 Census statistic
44 Praise
46 Biz deg.
47 Red metal
49 One-upmanship winner
51 Theatrical company
- 52 Guiding principles
53 Capital of County Clare, Ireland
54 Leams about
- 21 Leisuredly stroll
23 Pops
25 Dandy
27 A welcome sight
29 Characters
31 Work together
32 "Earth in the Balance" author
33 Persist
34 Affirmative action?
36 Mollycoddle
37 Kmart merger partner
41 Degree, to Emeril
44 Military cap
45 Aching
48 Bit of wordplay
50 Shell-game need

Down

- 1 "Yay!"
2 Dark-red apple variety
3 Chart
4 Thing
5 Our airspace defenders
6 Frolicked
7 Greatly
8 Litter member
9 Buyer
10 Villain's faces
11 Hoodlums
13 Really mad
18 Neither mate

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-5 CRYPTOQUIP

KU RIRVPJMN P YRVR GM
QFKA F JEABZ MU YRKQZG.
YMXN GZFG JVKAQ ED

FX X BXMDRV GMQRGZRV?
Yesterday's Cryptquip: If you liked to wear gold tiaras, I guess people would refer to you as "KARAT CLUE."

Today's Cryptquip Clue: Y equals W

Pregnant 13-year-old needs help

Dear Abby: My best friend, "Mara," is 13. She's pregnant and refuses to tell her parents because she says they will go crazy. I keep telling her that telling her parents is what she should do, but she just won't listen.

Mara told me she's going to run away and has asked me to go with her. I would, because she's my best friend, but then I think she should stay because she's having a baby, and if that baby doesn't get enough food and sun it could be harmed. I'm very confused. What should I do?

— **Confused Little Girl in Ohio**

Dear Confused: Running away is no solution. If ever there was a time a child needed her parents, this is one of them. Mara's parents may be disappointed, but they will NOT "go crazy." Urge your friend again to tell her parents, and volunteer to be with her when she does. (An

alternative would be to tell your mother, and ask your mother to accompany Mara when she gives them the news.) P.S. You are a caring friend with a good head on your shoulders. I hope Mara calms down and listens to you, because you're absolutely correct that medical care during pregnancy can be vital in delivering a healthy baby.

Dear Abby: I have been divorced 15 years. Recently my daughter, "Janelle," gave birth to a beautiful baby girl — my first grandchild.

I have put up with a lot from my ex's family over the years, but did it to keep the door open for my children's sake.

Janelle is staying with me these first few weeks of her baby's life, so I told my ex and his family they were welcome to come over any time.

Janelle and I were looking at an old family album that con-

tained her baby pictures and left it out on the coffee table. That night, I went out for about an hour while my ex-mother-in-law, sister-in-law and niece came to visit.

When I returned I asked if they had seen the album — and they said they had. The next morning, I was leaving through the album again, and I am missing six pictures! It had to be them because the album was full the day before. What should I do?

— **Disgusted in Arizona**

Dear Disgusted: Call the "ladies" and ask if, perhaps, they "inadvertently" picked up some of your daughter's baby pictures. Ask that they be returned and volunteer to have copies made for them. If they won't own up to taking them, then pray you can locate the negatives. And in the future do not invite them to your home.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69404, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

Dear Abby



Too much information too often

Dear Annie: A woman I used to work with is getting on my nerves.

"Tallie" and I would take our coffee breaks together. She is legally blind, and I would help her get her beverage and water for her service dog. That's it.

When I left my job, Tallie wanted to keep in touch, so we exchanged phone numbers. I thought it would be nice to hear from her occasionally, and for a while, it was fine. That all changed when Tallie, a newlywed, found out she was pregnant.

Tallie is becoming overly attached to me. She goes to the hospital every week, complaining about some ache or pain, dehydration, lost weight, etc., and then calls me afterward to describe the examination in great detail. I don't want to hear these graphic recitals and suggested she discuss such private matters with her husband, but she won't stop. I know she is crying out for

Annie's Mailbox



attention, but I am not a trained medical person. She has a husband and close family members to take care of her.

Last night, Tallie did it again, and I told her flat-out that I find hearing such personal information offensive. She replied, "I'm only trying to keep my best friend updated. You never ask how I'm doing." I don't want to be Tallie's best friend. She was simply a co-worker, and I've discovered I don't particularly like her. I can't change my phone number, since it belongs to a relative and I don't pay the bill.

How can I nicely avoid her? — **Non-Friend**

Dear Non-Friend: You need to extricate yourself from being held hostage by this emotionally needy woman. Look into the cost of adding your own phone line with a separate number. Otherwise, when Tallie calls, say "Sorry, but I have to run. Bye." Then hang up immediately. After

a dozen "conversations" like that, she will move on to a more sympathetic listener.

Dear Annie: I'd like to say "right on" to the letter from "Redding, Calif.," who said stores should provide seating for those who have trouble walking. For the last two years, I have been plagued with chronic fatigue and peripheral neuropathy (an extremely painful nerve disorder of the feet). I have asked the managers in my favorite department stores to provide seating, to no avail.

How much could it possibly cost to throw a few folding chairs out on each floor? I'm considering giving my money to the TV shopping networks instead.

— **Kara in California**

Dear Kara: This is another reason why shopping online is so popular.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Mary Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniemailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RYSAC	_____
RYBIN	_____
PERUPA	_____
SHARTH	_____

Answer: A _____

Jumbles: POACH AFTER JUSTLY BELLOW

Yesterday's Answer: What the trainer gave the greyhound during his morning workout — A FEW "LAPS"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A _____

Jumbles: POACH AFTER JUSTLY BELLOW

Yesterday's Answer: What the trainer gave the greyhound during his morning workout — A FEW "LAPS"

Family Circus



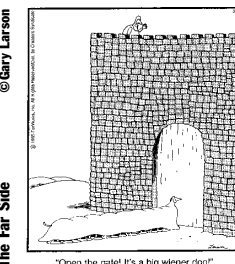
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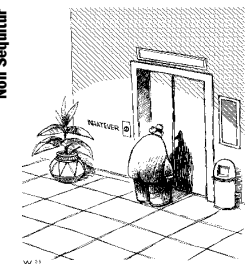
Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson



Non Sequitur



SATURDAY EVENING / MARCH 5, 2005

MOVIES

SPORTS

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P	Headline News	#ESPNews	According to Jim The Baby's first poster is pregnant.	Half & Half Adam (CC)	Wife Swap Pass/Davis (husband swap) lives with a leather-wearing biker	Law & Order: The Brotherhood Fortt and Green probe the death of a prison member (CC)	Headline News	Saturday Night Live (CC)			
7	AFN-AT	That's So Raven A Goats Tail	Switched! Missy and Ryan (CC)	Radio Five Rocco Part 3 of 3	#American Adventure	Access Hollywood (CC)	#WWE Raw	According to Jim The Baby (CC)	Half & Half (CC)	Wife Swap Pass/Davis (husband swap) lives with a leather-wearing biker	CNN Saturday Morning (CC)	Open House (CC)
8	NEWS	Hardball with Chris Matthews	The O'Reilly Factor			Dateline NBC (CC)	CNN Saturday Morning (CC)	Economy Watch Current state of the economy, indicators, news.				
9	SPTS	#(4:00) Sports		#SportsCenter			To Be Announced					
10	SPTS	What Not to Wear Marie	The Bachelorette (CC)			Tru Calling "Drop Dead Gorgeous" Tru tries to find a bone marrow match for a baby with leukemia (CC)	Strong Medicine Heartbeats & Deadbeats: Lu tries to find a bone marrow match for a baby with leukemia (CC)	Friends Rachel tries to raise Joey's big bill.	Seinfeld The mailroom-running big bill.	The Real World Houseguest (CC)		Punk'd (CC)
11	AFN-H	Fairly Oddparents Rugrats (CC)	#Life-Story (2000)	Tyra Banks, Lindsay Lohan		#Cats & Dogs [4:55] *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller	American Idol (CC)			American Idol (CC)		
12	AFN-IM	[5:50] *** "Sex, Lies, and Videotape" (1989) Dennis Hopper, Annette Bening	MacZowley, Peter Gallagher: A friend brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.
13	PBS	How Efforts to Preserve the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.
25	SHOW	How Efforts to Preserve the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.	Antiques Roadshow "Mensch" Perch's partner brings a couple's sexual insecurities to light.
26	Y&M	The Big House Montana State Prison (CC)	Life in the Prison Montana State Prison (CC)	Life in the Prison Montana State Prison (CC)	Life in the Prison Montana State Prison (CC)	Life in the Prison Montana State Prison (CC)	Life in the Prison Montana State Prison (CC)	Life in the Prison Montana State Prison (CC)	Life in the Prison Montana State Prison (CC)	Life in the Prison Montana State Prison (CC)	Life in the Prison Montana State Prison (CC)	Life in the Prison Montana State Prison (CC)
28	DISC	To Be Announced										
29	TFC	[5:55] Game Ka Isa Ba?	[4:45] Magingan Gabi, Bayan	Star Dance		[4:45] Controversial						
30	CNN+	Lou Dobbs Tonight	People in the News Martha Stewart	CNN Presents "Hush" Continents: Life in the Desert (CC)	CNN Saturday Morning Life at the South Pole	CNN Saturday Morning Life at the South Pole	CNN Saturday Morning Life at the South Pole	CNN Saturday Morning Life at the South Pole	CNN Saturday Morning Life at the South Pole	CNN Saturday Morning Life at the South Pole	CNN Saturday Morning Life at the South Pole	CNN Saturday Morning Life at the South Pole
31	GOLF	ESPN PGA Golf Dubai Desert Classic - Third Round. From Dubai, United Arab Emirates. (Live)	Trading Spas Jersey City: Webster Avenue	Trading Spas Jersey City: Webster Avenue	Trading Spas Jersey City: Webster Avenue	Trading Spas Jersey City: Webster Avenue	Trading Spas Jersey City: Webster Avenue	Trading Spas Jersey City: Webster Avenue	Trading Spas Jersey City: Webster Avenue	Trading Spas Jersey City: Webster Avenue	Trading Spas Jersey City: Webster Avenue	Trading Spas Jersey City: Webster Avenue
32	TLC	Duck Dodgers He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe
33	TOON	Amazing Animal Videos World's Cutest Animals	Amazing Animal Videos World's Cutest Animals	Amazing Animal Videos World's Cutest Animals	Amazing Animal Videos World's Cutest Animals	Amazing Animal Videos World's Cutest Animals	Amazing Animal Videos World's Cutest Animals	Amazing Animal Videos World's Cutest Animals	Amazing Animal Videos World's Cutest Animals	Amazing Animal Videos World's Cutest Animals	Amazing Animal Videos World's Cutest Animals	Amazing Animal Videos World's Cutest Animals
34	ANPL	[5:00] *** "Beverly Hills Cop II" (1987) Comedian Eddie Murphy, Ron Silver	Chris Rock: Bring the Pain The comic performs a stand-up routine (CC)	Chris Rock: Bring the Pain The comic performs a stand-up routine (CC)	Chris Rock: Bring the Pain The comic performs a stand-up routine (CC)	Chris Rock: Bring the Pain The comic performs a stand-up routine (CC)	Chris Rock: Bring the Pain The comic performs a stand-up routine (CC)	Chris Rock: Bring the Pain The comic performs a stand-up routine (CC)	Chris Rock: Bring the Pain The comic performs a stand-up routine (CC)	Chris Rock: Bring the Pain The comic performs a stand-up routine (CC)	Chris Rock: Bring the Pain The comic performs a stand-up routine (CC)	Chris Rock: Bring the Pain The comic performs a stand-up routine (CC)
35	COM	[5:00] *** "Saturday Night Live" (1977) Drama: Karen Lynn Gorney, Premiere (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)
40	NGCA	[5:00] *** "Saturday Night Live" (1977) Drama: Karen Lynn Gorney, Premiere (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)
42	FOX	[5:00] *** "Saturday Night Live" (1977) Drama: Karen Lynn Gorney, Premiere (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)
43	SPEK	[5:00] *** "Saturday Night Live" (1977) Drama: Karen Lynn Gorney, Premiere (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)
44	BET	[5:00] *** "Saturday Night Live" (1977) Drama: Karen Lynn Gorney, Premiere (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)
45	COURT	[5:00] *** "Saturday Night Live" (1977) Drama: Karen Lynn Gorney, Premiere (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)
46	STR-UD	[5:00] *** "Saturday Night Live" (1977) Drama: Karen Lynn Gorney, Premiere (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)
47	LIFE	[5:00] *** "Saturday Night Live" (1977) Drama: Karen Lynn Gorney, Premiere (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)
48	ABCAM	[5:00] *** "Saturday Night Live" (1977) Drama: Karen Lynn Gorney, Premiere (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)
49	HIST	[5:00] *** "Saturday Night Live" (1977) Drama: Karen Lynn Gorney, Premiere (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)
50	STR-IM	[5:00] *** "Saturday Night Live" (1977) Drama: Karen Lynn Gorney, Premiere (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)
51	ADV 1	[5:00] *** "Saturday Night Live" (1977) Drama: Karen Lynn Gorney, Premiere (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)
52	MTV	[5:00] *** "Saturday Night Live" (1977) Drama: Karen Lynn Gorney, Premiere (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)
53	NICK	[5:00] *** "Saturday Night Live" (1977) Drama: Karen Lynn Gorney, Premiere (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)	The Simpsons The Simpson family goes on a road trip (CC)

JAPAN TV

Afternoon

1:00 Traditional Arts of Japan: Buraku (CC)
2:00 J League Soccer: Urawa Red Diamonds vs. Yokohama F. Marinos (CC)
3:30 Japan Pro Ball: Exhibition Game: "Yamaguchi Giants" vs. Softbank Hawks (CC)
3:50 J League Soccer: Yokohama F. Marinos vs. Jubilo Iwata (CC)
4:00 Special Olympics 2005 in Nagano (CC)
4:30 Daikin Fighting Ladies' Golf: 3rd round (CC)
5:00 Ultimate Fighting Series (CC)
Evening
7:00 News
9:00 U.S. Movie (1996): The Rock (23:48)

12:45 E.R. VIII (1)
2:30 Japan Pro Bowling (4)
2:25 F1 Grand Prix: 31st Round, Australian GP Preliminary (CC)
3:20 U.S. Movie (1991): The Italian Runner (1:40:12)
3:55 Pro Wrestling: WWE-X Special (CC)

JAPAN TV-BST

Morning
6:10 World News
7:10 World News
8:10 World News Hour
9:10 World News Hour
10:10 World News
11:10 J League Soccer: Season Opening Preview
Afternoon
12:10 CNN News

1:10 BS Documentary: Tracking Co-ambition Drug Synthesis
2:10 History of FIFA (1)
3:10 Soccer J League: Gamba Osaka vs. Omiya Ardija (CC)
5:10 2005 World Alpine Skiing Championships Highlights
Evening
6:10 X-Games 2004
7:00 Soccer J League: F.C. Tokyo vs. Yokohama F. Marinos
8:10 Soccer J League Results
12:10 CNN News
12:30 Soccer J League: Gamba Osaka vs. Omiya Ardija
1:10 NBA: Cleveland Cavaliers vs. Philadelphia 76ers
3:10 What's On Asia
3:30 World Amazing Sports
4:10 What's On Japan
5:40 Football Mundial

JAPAN TV-BS11

Evening

7:00 NHK News
9:10 U.S. Movie (1997): Affliction (1:55)
Morning
6:00 U.S. Movie (1974): The Front Page (1:57)
8:00 TV Series: Dawson's Creek
9:00 U.S. Movie: CSI: Crime Scene Investigation - Miami 2
11:30 U.S. Movie (1998): The Avengers (1:32)
Afternoon
1:10 U.S. Movie (2003): S.W.A.T. (2:00)

WOWOW

8:00 Hungarian-Canadian-British Movie (2002): Max (1:50)
10:00 British Movie (2003): 28 Days Later... (1:57)
12:30 TV Series: Friends the Final Chapter (2:33)
12:30 TV Series: Sex and the City 49
2:55 U.S. Movie (2003): The Italian Job
5:55 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola (1:30)

3:20 U.S. Movie (2002): Divine: Sex and the City - The Movie (2:00)
8:00 Hungarian-Canadian-British Movie (2002): Max (1:50)
10:00 British Movie (2003): 28 Days Later... (1:57)
12:30 TV Series: Friends the Final Chapter (2:33)
12:30 TV Series: Sex and the City 49
2:55 U.S. Movie (2003): The Italian Job
5:55 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola (1:30)

MTV

Morning
6:00 Wake Up
8:00 Classic 90's
9:00 Japan Chart Top 30

Afternoon
12:00 Movie Download Chart Top 10
1:00 World Chart Express Supported by Honda
3:00 Pimp My Ride
3:30 Faking the Weather: Michelle Branch
4:00 Air Chart Top 30
Evening
7:00 Consensus: Tokyo Sea Paradise
7:30 Screen
8:00 Asia Awards 2004: Best 9-30 Chart: Best at MAU 2004
10:00 News and then: Miki Nakajima
11:00 U.S. Top 20 with Super RY
1:00 Pimp My Ride
1:30 Check the Rhythm
2:00 Faking the Weather: Michelle Branch
3:00 Headbangers Ball
3:30 After Chart Top 30

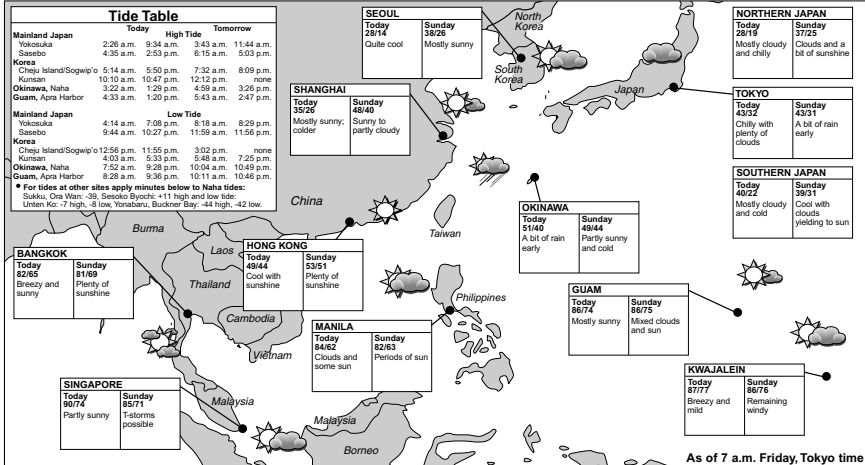
MTV

Morning
6:00 Wake Up
8:00 Classic 90's
9:00 Japan Chart Top 30

The Pacific Forecast

AccuWeather.com

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As of 7 a.m. Friday, Tokyo time

Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
 Monday: Mostly sunny,
 high 46, low 41.
 Tuesday: Mostly sunny,
 high 53, low 42.

KADENA
 Monday: Partly sunny,
 high 59, low 42.
 Tuesday: Partly sunny,
 high 63, low 56.

SEoul
 Monday: Mostly sunny,
 high 83, low 63.
 Tuesday: Mostly sunny,
 high 47, low 34.

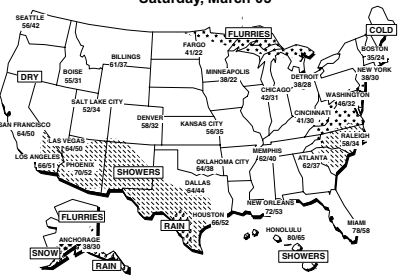
MANILA
 Monday: Mostly cloudy,
 high 83, low 63.
 Tuesday: Mostly cloudy,
 high 86, low 67.

HAGATNA
 Monday: Partly sunny,
 high 85, low 75.
 Tuesday: Partly sunny,
 high 87, low 74.

Thursday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	60/33	Los Angeles	65/52
Amarillo	67/35	Little Rock	59/43
Anchorage	34/24	Louisville	43/36
Ashville	49/24	Miami	69/81
Baltimore	36/20	Milwaukee	31/20
Birmingham	56/35	Nashville	54/37
Bismarck	51/25	New York	34/23
Boise	54/34	Omaha	52/32
Boston	31/19	Orlando	57/48
Brownsville	78/58	Philadelphia	36/20
Buffalo	24/18	Phoenix	72/52
Burlington	21/12	Pittsburgh	27/18
Charleston, SC	55/31	Portland, OR	60/46
Charlotte	53/26	Portland, ME	28/11
Cleveland	26/20	Salt Lake City	51/32
Columbus, OH	30/22	San Jose	49/39
Duluth	30/18	San Antonio	68/48
El Paso	72/43	San Diego	65/56
Fort Hord	29/15	San Juan	65/74
Helena	53/24	Tampa	57/48
Indianapolis	36/27	Tulsa	62/46
Jacksonville	54/38	Washington, DC	38/24
Kansas City	58/41	Wichita	69/41

Saturday, March 05



Shown is north position of precipitation. Forecasts high/low are for selected cities

U.S. Extended Forecast

A storm system will slide from Ohio to eastern Virginia on Saturday, bringing a bit of snow across the mid-Atlantic region. Rain will mix with the snow across New Jersey and Maryland; all rain will impact Virginia. A few showers will develop along the associated cold front as the front moves into the Carolinas in the afternoon and drapes back into central Texas. Meanwhile, an upper-level storm system will move over Arizona and meander there into early next week. Thunderstorms will develop in spots from Southern California to western New Mexico on Sunday as well. Some rain will spread into eastern New Mexico and West Texas. The dry northwestern half of the nation will again experience sunshine.

Saturday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	82/65	Iwakuni	43/30
Beijing	40/35	Kadena AB	51/40
Camp Casey	30/16	Kansan AB	28/16
Christchurch	73/67	Kwajalein	87/77
Diego Garcia	88/78	Manila	84/62
Hagatna	86/74	Misawa AB	30/17
Hanoi	57/50	Okinawa	29/15
Hong Kong	49/44	Perth	78/54
Honolulu	80/65	Pusan	34/18

Saturday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	88/72	Budapest	34/23	Kabul	52/31
Athens	64/55	Buenos Aires	88/70	Kiev	34/33
Auckland	74/61	Cairo	81/60	Kuwait	80/53
Baghdad	69/45	Cancun	81/65	London	41/28
Barbados	90/72	Cape Town	93/67	Madrid	50/29
Barcelona	57/34	Geneva	31/29	Mexico City	75/52
Berlin	27/13	Istanbul	56/44	Montreal	25/11
Bermuda	61/52	Jerusalem	63/48	Mogadishu	39/76
Brussels	35/19	Johannesburg	75/57	Moscow	22/16
				Warsaw	28/25



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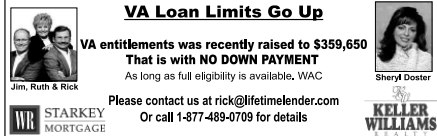
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Hughes' 31 in return

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Larry Hughes made an emphatic and timely return to the Wizards on Wednesday, scoring 31 points in his first game since breaking his thumb to help lead Washington to a 101-98 victory over the Houston Rockets.

Hughes made 11 of 20 shots and had six rebounds and four assists, and backcourt partner Gilbert Arenas had 33 points, eight rebounds and five assists for the Wizards, who had lost two straight and five of six. The Wizards have won eight straight when Hughes is in the lineup, but the previous seven came before he was sidelined after a victory over Phoenix on Jan. 15.

The Wizards blew a 17-point third-quarter lead but rallied from an eight-point fourth quarter deficit. Hughes' three-point game gave Washington the lead for good with 3:16 remaining, part of a 13-2 run in which Hughes and Arenas combined for 11.

Brendan Haywood scored six of his 12 points in the final two minutes, including a short turnaround fadeaway jumper over Yao Ming to put the Wizards ahead 99-95 with 50 seconds left. Tracy McGrady made a three-point shot for his last of his 26 points with seven seconds remaining, but Arenas made two free throws with six seconds to play to put the Wizards up by three. McGrady, guarded by Hughes, missed a three-point shot that could have tied the game at the buzzer.

Hughes was injured when hit by Quentin Richardson in a drive to the paint during the win over the Nets. The Wizards went 9-11 during his absence and found themselves relying too heavily on Arenas, who averaged 29.4 points over the 20 games. Hughes entered the game leading the league in steals with 10, and he remained the only NBA player averaging more than 20 points (21.2), five rebounds (6.1), five assists (5.3) and 2.5 steals.

Celtics 104, Lakers 101: At Boston, Kobe Bryant scored 17 first-quarter points,

NBA roundup

just 30 minutes after setting a lawsuit filed by the woman who accused him of rape, but he was scoreless in the fourth quarter, missing a three-point shot just before the buzzer as the Celtics sent the Lakers to their fourth consecutive loss.

Paul Pierce had 29 points and nine rebounds. Ricky Davis scored 29 points and Antoine Walker had 16 with 13 rebounds in his first game in Boston since being reacquired at the trading deadline. The rejuvenated Celtics have won three straight since then and six straight at home overall.

Bryant finished with 26 points, and Chuck Atkins had 29, scoring 14 in the final 5:26 to keep the Lakers in the game.

Nets 99, 76ers 93: Vince Carter scored 26 of his 32 points in the second half, and Clifford Robinson added 18 points for visiting New Jersey.

Allen Iverson scored 37 points for Philadelphia, and Chris Webber had only 10 in his worst performance in three games for the 76ers. Philadelphia has lost three of four since acquiring Webber from Sacramento last week.

The Nets have won three straight to close within 10 points of second-place Philadelphia in the Eastern Division.

SuperSonics 103, Cavaliers 86: Ray Allen scored 31 points, Vladimir Radmanovic hit five three-pointers and visiting Seattle spoiled Dan Gilbert's first game as the Cavaliers' owner.

Rashard Lewis added 20 points for the Sonics. LeRon James scored 32 points, matching a career high with five three-pointers for Cleveland.

Magic 114, Kings 94: At Orlando, Fla., Steve Francis had 29 points and 10 assists to help Orlando snap a three-game losing streak.

Dwight Howard added 20 points and 16 rebounds for the Magic. Grant Hill had 20

points, and rookie Jameer Nelson had 19 points and six assists.

Peja Stojakovic led Sacramento with 28 points in his first game after missing seven games because of a hamstring injury. Mike Bibby added 26 points and 10 assists.

Wizards 99, Timberwolves 93: Derek Fisher had 23 points and nine assists to lead Golden State to its sixth road victory of the season.

After trailing by 11 points in the third quarter, the Warriors opened the fourth with a 16-2 run.

Kevin Garnett had 28 points and 13 rebounds for the Timberwolves.

Spurs 92, Raptors 86: At San Antonio, Manu Ginobili scored 17 points, and Tony Parker added 15 to help the NBA-leading Spurs improve to 44-13 overall and 25-2 at the SBC Center.

Jazz 96, Hawks 74: At Salt Lake City, Mehmet Okur scored 19 points to help Utah beat Atlanta for its first three-game winning streak since the opening week of the season.

Chris Childress led Atlanta with 21 points. The Hawks, playing the final game of a seven-game road trip, have lost 10 in a row overall and 21 straight on the road.

Hornets 94, Bobcats 85: Dan Dickau scored 18 points and added 11 rebounds, and P.J. Brown had 12 points and 15 rebounds for both New Orleans.

Brown and Nailor were the only players to have points played for the Hornets during their first season in Charlotte. Emeka Okafor led the Bobcats with 18 points.

Clippers 101, Mavericks 92: At Los Angeles, Corey Maggette scored 20 points to help the Clippers win their seventh straight home game and end Dallas' road winning streak at six games.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 25 points for the Mavericks.

In his first game since breaking his thumb on Jan. 15, Washington Wizards guard Larry Hughes scored 31 points in a 101-98 win over the Houston Rockets on Wednesday night in Washington. The Wizards had lost two straight and five of six.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Boston	20	16	.556
Philadelphia	28	10	.739
New Jersey	26	12	.684
New York	24	14	.632
Toronto	24	14	.632
Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Miami	42	6	.874
Charlotte	22	16	.579
Orlando	20	18	.526
Washington	12	24	.333
Chicago	27	15	.643
Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Detroit	29	13	.688
Cleveland	31	11	.738
Memphis	26	16	.615
Chicago	28	12	.700
Indiana	28	12	.700
Minnesota	23	17	.575
Milwaukee	22	18	.551

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
San Antonio	44	13	.772
Portland	38	19	.667
Houston	32	25	.563
Dallas	28	29	.491
New Orleans	12	35	.257
Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Seattle	40	16	.714
Denver	29	17	.628
Minnesota	28	18	.609
Portland	22	24	.479
Utah	20	31	.392

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
Phoenix	43	15	.742
San Antonio	38	20	.655
L.A. Lakers	28	20	.581
L.A. Clippers	28	20	.581
Golden State	17	29	.366
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Washington 101, Houston 98			
Seattle 98, Cleveland 91			
Orlando 114, Sacramento 111			
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Phoenix 99, Minnesota 93			
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San Antonio 92, Toronto 86			
Utah 96, Atlanta 74			
Thursday's games			
San Antonio 92, Charlotte 86			
L.A. Clippers 101, Dallas 92			
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Golden State at Washington			
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Charlotte at Boston			
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NHL hears bid for buyout

The Associated Press

TORONTO — An investment firm and a sports advisory company reportedly made a joint proposal to buy all 30 NHL teams for as much as \$3.5 billion.

The two Boston companies were invited by NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman to present the highly unusual offer, the Toronto Star and Globe and Mail reported Thursday. Bain Capital Partners LLC and Game Plan LLC made their pitch Tuesday in New York to NHL owners, whose season has been shut down by a lockout.

Game Plan chairman Robert Caporale confirmed to WBZ radio in Boston that the companies had offered more than \$3 billion.

"It's taking the National Hockey League and its 30 teams and operating it as any large corporation does with each team essentially being a division of one company," Caporale said. "We would keep in place team management, team presidents, the GMs. They would be completely autonomous."

Caporale described team owners as "very attentive" but questions the level of support.

"I don't think it's realistic, and I don't think there's much interest, and I know there's no interest on the part of the Bruins," Bruins owner Jeremy M. Jacobs said. "And I think it takes 30 (team owners) to do it."

Sports briefs

Bain Capital spokesman Sam Hollander declined to immediately comment Thursday to The Associated Press.

"The substance of the presentation and the reaction of the board" are "internal league matters, and ones on which we are not prepared to comment further," Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer, said in a statement Thursday.

Davenport, Williams advance in Dubai Women's Open

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Lindsay Davenport and Serena Williams cruised through the Dubai Open quarterfinals Thursday, remaining on course for a repeat of their Australian Open final.

Meanwhile, French Open champion Anastasia Myskina squandered a match point and was ousted by eighth-seeded Patty Schnyder of Switzerland 6-7 (0), 7-6 (2), 6-2.

Davenport beat wild card Conchita Martinez of Spain 6-1, 6-4 in 77 minutes, while Australian Open champion Williams handed Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia 6-4, 6-3 in 68 minutes.

Davenport will meet Snyder

in Friday's semifinals, and Williams faces Jelena Jankovic of Serbia and Montenegro.

SEC football to use instant replay in '05 season

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The Southeastern Conference will use instant replay on an experimental basis during league games for the 2005 season.

University presidents and chancellors approved the change on Thursday, a day after athletic directors voted for it.

Details of the league's instant replay plan will be decided during the SEC spring meetings, held May 31-June 3.

S. Carolina players suspended

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Two South Carolina football players have been suspended indefinitely from the team after police said two televisions were stolen from university dorm rooms, the latest in a string of disciplinary problems since late last season.

Defensive end Moe Thompson, a junior, and tackle Kevin Mainord, a redshirt freshman, were suspended, athletics spokesman Kerry Tharp said Wednesday.

Mainord was arrested and charged with two counts of first-degree burglary and two counts of simple larceny. Thompson has not been arrested or charged in the incident, university spokesman Russ McKinney said.

Scott argues against guaranteed contracts

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans coach Byron Scott called for non-guaranteed contracts in the NBA — and took a shot at former Hornets guard Baron Davis, too.

"Basketball needs to be just like the NFL — no guaranteed contracts. Watch how the quality of the game goes up then," Scott said Wednesday.

The Hornets faced the Charlotte Bobcats. "Guys will show up and play because if they don't and they get cut, what are they going to do?"

"[In football] you have guys playing with broken arms because they know they could get cut tomorrow. [In the NBA] these guys get a broken fingernail and say, 'I'm out for two weeks.'"

While Scott did not name Davis specifically, he smiled when reporters asked if his comments applied to the recently traded star point guard.

Shortly after returning from an early season back injury, Davis turned his right ankle in a game at Toronto in January and missed 17 games because of a bruised Achilles tendon. He returned for one game before being traded to Golden State last week in exchange for Speedy Claxton.

"I never heard of a guy sprain-

ing an ankle, then missing two weeks," Scott said. "You never heard about that in the '80s (when Scott played with the Los Angeles Lakers). That's unbelievable."

Scott's comments came only days after Davis, who was angered earlier this season when the Hornets barred his personal trainer from practice, complained playing for New Orleans to "being in prison."

Bobcats' Rush out 4-6 weeks

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Charlotte Bobcats guard Kareem Rush will miss 4-6 weeks after spraining his left knee during Wednesday night's loss at New Orleans.

A MRI performed after the game revealed the sprain, the team said Thursday.

Rush went down with 8:38 left in the third quarter after running into a pick and had to be helped off the court.

Chandler fired for gesture

NEW YORK — Chicago forward Tyson Chandler was fined \$10,000 by the NBA on Wednesday, one day after making an obscene gesture toward an official during the Bulls' loss to the Houston Rockets.

With 3:24 left in the third quarter Tuesday night, Chandler lost his cool and drew a technical. He made an obscene gesture in the direction of referee Sean Corbin after being called for a foul.



Ernie Els watches his shot on the third hole during the first day of the Dubai Desert Classic at the Emirates Golf Club in Dubai, UAE, Thursday.

Els in front in Dubai after first-round 66

The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Ernie Els shot a 6-under 66 Thursday for a one-shot lead after the first round of the Dubai Desert Classic.

Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain and David Howell of England each had a 67, with Jarrod Lyle of Australia and Sam Osborne of England at 68.

"A 66 at the end of the day was a good day's work," Els said.

"I was happy with the way I played the par-5s because if you don't make foures there, you are losing ground against the field."

Els, seeking his first victory of the season, birdied three of the four par-5s.

Nine players, including former champion Thomas Bjorn, were three strokes behind. Colin Montgomerie and Ben Curtis, the 2003 British Open champion, shot 70s and defending champion Mark O'Meara a 73.

Els said he spoke with his sports psychologist during his three-week golf break.

"We get bogged down trying to play the perfect game," the South African said. "But I got back to basics."

Els, with just one finish outside the top 10 in his last 17 starts, is relaxed and ready to attack the course.

"If I see a shot, I am going to hit it," he said. "I saw a lot of drivers today and I stuck to my game plan and went for it."

The 41-year-old Jimenez won five times on the European tour last year.

"I am like a good wine, you know, getting better with age," he said.

The tournament featured two holes-in-one in the morning — Kenyan-born Englishman Yasin Ali on the 186-yard seventh and Japan's Nobuhito Sato on the 180-yard 15th.

Settle: Sides negotiate deal

SETTLE FROM BACK PAGE

Like the criminal case, the civil case ultimately would have rested on the testimony of a woman Bryant's attorneys accused of being a promiscuous, attention-seeking liar. Among other things, the defense suggested she had sex with someone after leaving Bryant and before she contacted authorities — a claim her attorneys hotly contested.

Speculation that a settlement was close increased Monday after L. Lin Wood, one of the woman's attorneys, said Bryant's long-awaited deposition has been called off.

Colorado law makes it difficult for plaintiffs in civil cases to win more than about \$733,000. Wood has said that amount was too low to fairly compensate the woman for the harm she claimed to have suffered. Sports marketers have estimated Bryant lost \$4 million to \$6 million in endorsement contracts after his arrest. He has not

appeared in Nike commercials since the allegations surfaced, and McDonald's and Nutella did not renew their deals with him after his arrest.

Cynthia Stone, spokeswoman for the Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault, said she hopes the settlement brings some sense of justice and closure for the accuser, who moved from state to state to avoid media scrutiny last year.

"The defense team in the criminal case managed to get reams of paper filled with rumor and innuendo about this young woman's prior sexual history out into the public," Stone said.

As a result, victims' advocates are lobbying for a bill intended to tighten Colorado's "rape shield" law. The bill, which has passed the state Senate, would prohibit discussion of an alleged victim's sexual history during a preliminary hearing unless a judge rules otherwise.

Associated Press Writers P. Solomon, Brenda Joslin Kohler, Catherine Tait and Erin Gartner contributed to this report.

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Calhoun joins the club

Connecticut coach joins Krzyzewski and Boeheim with 700th victory as Huskies batter Georgetown

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO
The Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — For the third time this season, and second time in less than a week, another name was added to the list of coaches with 700 victories.

Jim Calhoun became the 18th Division I coach — and seventh active — to reach the mark when No. 15 Connecticut beat Georgetown 83-64 on Wednesday night. Duke's Mike Krzyzewski reached the milestone in December and Syracuse's Jim Boeheim got there last Saturday.

"This is a very special night for Connecticut. It's a special night for me and it's a very special night for our players," Calhoun said. "A coach is only a reflection of so many assistants and great players."

Calhoun, 62, is in his 33rd year as a coach, won 248 games in 14 seasons at Northeastern and has 452 in 19 seasons at Connecticut, which he transformed from a decent regional program into a national power.

He has led the Huskies to two national championships (1999 and 2004), 14 Big East titles and an NIT championship.

Some of his former players who are now NBA stars — Ray Allen, Richard Hamilton, Emeke Okafor — congratulated Calhoun in a video tribute shown after the game.

His current players did their part, too.

Charlie Villanueva scored 24 points and freshman Rudy Gay added a season-high 20 in a game that turned into a celebration in the late going. The sellout crowd

"It means we're either getting older or getting better. Let's just hope we're getting better."

Jim Boeheim
Syracuse coach and
700-game winner

of 10,167 stood for the closing seconds, chanting "700" and wildly waving placards printed with the number.

"We were definitely focused and pumped up for this game," Villanueva said. "We wanted to do this for Coach and we did."

The Huskies (20-6, 12-3) made sure they put this one away early, well ahead of the celebration. The Huskies have been one of the hottest teams in the conference down the stretch, winning their last eight Big East games, to tie Boston College for first place.

The streak is due in large part to the emergence of point guard Marcus Williams, who leads the league in assists. He finished with 11 points and eight assists Wednesday.

"He makes us go," Calhoun said of Williams. "He knows pass that most kids can't see. He makes everybody's jobs so much easier."

The Hoyas (16-10, 8-7) continued slide, losing their fourth straight. Freshman Jeff Green led Georgetown with 17 points and helped get the Hoyas out to a quick start.

Green opened the game with a three-pointer as the Hoyas hit their first three shots from beyond the arc and played the Huskies close for several minutes. The Hoyas' biggest lead was 19-15 with 12:10 left, but it didn't last long.

The Huskies blew open the game with a stifling press and 20-3 run that started with a driving layup by Williams.

He also assisted on spectacular dunks by Villanueva and Gay. But what brought the fans to their feet was Williams' steal and over-the-head half-court pass to Gay who was fouled as he went in for the dunk. Gay hit both shots to cap the run and give Connecticut a 39-24 lead. Gay's fallaway at the buzzer put Connecticut up 41-26 at halftime.

Georgetown would get no closer than 14 points thereafter and the Huskies' ever-intense coach made sure his team played hard until the end. He angrily flung his sport coat in the middle of an 11-2 Georgetown run early in the second half and called a timeout. The Huskies quickly regrouped and the rout was on.

"Everything he does, he wants you to be as successful as he can be," Williams said. "His expectations are high because he knows you can achieve. It's an honor to be here with Coach."

Boeheim, whose Orange (24-5) close the regular season Saturday at Storrs, also was part of the video tribute and welcomed Calhoun into the 700 club.

"It means we're either getting older or getting better," Boeheim said. "Let's just hope we're getting better. We'll see you Saturday."



Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun blows a kiss to the crowd following the Huskies' 83-64 defeat of Georgetown, Calhoun's 700th career victory.

Seniors have their day in Kentucky home finale

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — If it weren't true, it would be an unbelievably sappy story line: Two seniors — one of whom had limited playing time during his career — starred in their final home game.

Chuck Hayes and Josh Carrier went out in style Wednesday night, leading No. 3 Kentucky to a 73-61 victory over Tennessee.

Hayes scored nine of his 13 points in the final 15 minutes for the Wildcats (23-3, 14-1), who already had clinched the Southeastern Conference title. Kentucky has one regular-season game remaining, on Sunday at Florida.

That Hayes starred against Tennessee wasn't too surprising since the forward has started 102 consecutive games. Carrier's performance was unexpected.

The guard made his first career start and set career highs for minutes (19) and points (nine) while shooting 3-for-5 from three-point range and his three-pointers came at opportune moments for Kentucky.

"It was a well-played-out script

Men's Top 25 Roundup

for two young men who are finishing their careers in front of their fans." Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said. "If you were writing a script about how you want the game to play out, it unfolded the night."

"Chuck made the plays down the stretch when we needed clutch scoring. We kept going to him," Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said. "If you were writing a script about how you want the game to play out, it unfolded the night."

The Volunteers (12-16, 5-10) hung with the Wildcats for most of the game, tying it 55-55 with 8:25 left on the fifth three-point shot of the game by Lofton, a freshman guard who was Kentucky's Mr. Basketball in 2004.

Tennessee didn't score again until 1:53 remained, and Kentucky scored 16 of the next 18 points to extend its winning streak over the Volunteers to seven games.

After Lofton's basket, Tennessee missed three chances to take the lead before Hayes gave the Wildcats the lead for good with a three-point play with 5:18 left. That was Kentucky's first basket in more than 9½ minutes.

Hayes — who missed all but 6 minutes of the first half after picking up two early fouls — seemed determined to make sure the Wildcats won their last home game.

With Kentucky up 59-55, Hayes came up with a breakthrough dunk after making a steal. On Kentucky's next possession, he worked underneath for a basket, making it 63-55 with 3:15 left.

Hayes capped his burst with a dunk with 1:23 left, and the fan favorite left to a standing ovation with 30 seconds left. He finished 5-for-6 from the field.

Hayes and Carrier teamed up after the game, when they joined their teammates and a crowd of 24,205 in singing "My Old Kentucky Home."

"I didn't think it would get to me and I didn't think I'd cry," Hayes said. "I tried to look at the

ground when they played 'My Old Kentucky Home,' but I looked up and saw all the signs. It just came over me at once and hit me."

No. 4 Wake Forest 98, Georgia Tech 91: Vyatas Danielous had 17 points and 11 rebounds and the Demon Deacons (25-4, 12-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) rallied from 11 points down in the second half to finish 16-0 at home.

Jarrett Jack had 23 points for the Yellow Jackets (16-10, 7-8).

No. 7 Kansas 72, Kansas St. 65: Senior Wayne Simien had 25 points and a career-high 20 rebounds as Kansas (22-4, 12-3 Big 12) celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first game played at Allen Fieldhouse. The Jayhawks clinched at least a tie for the Big 12 championship with their 30th straight victory over the Wildcats (15-11, 5-10).

No. 8 Oklahoma State 69, Texas A&M 63: John Lucas III scored 27 points for the Cowboys (21-5, 11-4 Big 12), who snapped a two-game losing streak by hitting 15 straight free throws down the

stretch. Oklahoma State extended the nation's longest current home winning streak to 29 games.

No. 14 Michigan St. 69, Northwestern 58: Maurice Ayers scored 20 points, including a clutch three-pointer with 3:50 left that curtailed Northwestern's comeback from an 18-point deficit, as the visiting Spartans (21-5, 12-3 Big Ten) won for the seventh time in eight games.

No. 19 Villanova 79, Seton Hall 58: Randy Foye scored 27 points as the Wildcats (20-6, 10-5 Big East) reached 20 victories for the first time since 2000.

No. 21 Alabama 94, Auburn 53: Earnest Shelton and Kennedy Winston each scored 24 points for the Crimson Tide (22-6, 11-4 Southeastern Conference), while Auburn (12-16, 3-12), lost its fifth straight.

No. 22 Cincinnati 77, Tulane 56: Jihad Muhammad made six three-pointers and scored a career-high 24 points as the Bearcats (23-6, 11-4 Conference USA) handed Tulane (9-17, 3-12) its fifth straight loss.

With much fanfare, Nats spring into action

Washington debuts with 5-3 win over Mets

BY HOWARD FENDRICH

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Fla. — It had been 12,207 days since a team represented Washington on a major league diamond.

For the fans and the players, it seemed to be worth the wait, even if this was only spring training.

With "Nationals" stitched on home white jerseys for the first time, and with a vocal near-sellout crowd in the stands, the team formerly known as the Montreal Expos beat the New York Mets and new manager Willie Randolph 5-3 Wednesday in the spring training opener for both teams.

"We're the Washington Nationals now, we're not the Montreal Expos anymore. It's nice to be in one place, and not traveling like those guys were traveling last year," said outfielder Jose Guillen, who hit a two-run homer in his first game since being acquired from the Angels.

"That's one of the reasons [general manager Jim Bowden] brought me here. I said, 'If you're in the same situation, don't even ask me here.' He promised me we were going to have a home."

It's about time, after the Expos weathered the threat of contraction, "home" games in Puerto Rico, and a drawn-out agreement to move to Washington. The nation's capital hasn't had a baseball team since the Senators left for Texas after the 1971 season.

"It was special because of the situation. We're all aware of it. You always try to keep your perspective that it's an exhibition game," Nationals manager Frank Robinson said. "It's the next step, getting a little closer to the real thing, and you do get excited about that. You can't get too up, though."

Tell that to the fans.

An announced sellout of 7,558 began time, arriving more than five hours before game time,



JONATHAN NEWTON/The Washington Post

The Washington Nationals take the field Wednesday for their spring training opener. The attendance of 7,558 was larger than the crowd for half of the team's final 14 games in Montreal.

hoping for a photo, although — or just a glimpse of a player. The line at the stadium gates was several dozen deep when they opened 1½ hours before the first pitch.

The attendance was bigger than it was for half of the team's final 14 games in Montreal. Even the Mets were impressed by the turnout.

"It was pretty cool. It's not often that the first game of spring training is nationally televised. I'm happy for those guys," said New York starter Tom Glavine, who allowed two hits in two scoreless innings.

Washington's starters sprinted onto the field at 1:02 p.m. EST, and a minute later came another first in Nationals history, albeit a tad more dubious: the debut of the team theme song, "We Are the Washington Nationals," which sounded like AC/DC. Blessed Union of Souls recorded the song and offered it to Bowden.

"I was wondering, 'What's going on?' It was like head-banging, then it said 'Nationals' and it was pretty cool," outfielder Brad Wilkerson said. "It's pretty cool to have your own song. It was pretty upbeat. We didn't have a song in Montreal."

There were a lot of positive signs for the Nationals on Wednesday.

Starter Tony Armas Jr., who missed most of the past two seasons after major shoulder surgery, worked two hitless innings with two strikeouts. He threw 28 pitches and said he didn't feel any pain.

The three key new position players — Guillen, Cristian Guzman and Vinny Castilla — each had a hit. Jose Vidro, who missed the final six weeks last season to have right knee surgery, singled and scored a run.

Chad Cordero struck out the side in the ninth, putting the Nationals' first victory in the books.

"We're undefeated. We've never lost a game, so that's exciting," Bowden said.

Robinson feted by Congress

BY ERICA WERNER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jackie Robinson was posthumously awarded a Congressional Gold Medal on Wednesday, more than half a century after breaking baseball's color barrier.

President Bush gave Congress' highest honor to Robinson's widow, Rachel Robinson, in a state ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda. The Democratic and Republican leaders of the House and Senate and the commissioner of major league baseball looked on.

"His story is one that shows what one person can do to hold America to account to its founding promise of freedom and equality," Bush said. "It's a lesson for people coming up to see. One person can make a big difference in setting the tone of this country."

When Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, the first African American in the major league baseball was segregated. He died in 1972 and his No. 42 was retired throughout baseball in 1997.

"This medal confirms what we know," Rachel Robinson said. "Jackie Robinson stands as a heroic role model for all Americans who believe in justice and equality."

Speakers extolled Robinson as a courageous athlete who suffered taunts and slurs from fans and fellow players, ignoring them as he proved to be a brilliant ballplayer and a civil rights hero.

Innings-eater Weaver happy to be part of a winner

BY JOHN NADEL

The Associated Press

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Jeff Weaver's first season with the Los Angeles Dodgers was a success — everywhere but in the win column.

The right-hander the New York Yankees couldn't wait to get rid of after the 2003 season, worked at least six innings and gave up three runs or less in 25 of his 34 starts for the Dodgers. In 220 innings, he had an ERA of 4.01 — almost two runs fewer than the previous year.

But what did all those eye-catching statistics add up to? A 13-13 record for a playoff team.

"He could have won 18, at least, without throwing one pitch differently last year," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said. "What else could you ask from him? We didn't score any runs for him in the early part of the season."

Weaver said he wasn't frustrated.

"A lot of games I did come out of, we ended up winning," he said. "It's so much easier to throw things out when you're winning. That's nothing you have control over. My goal was to become that 200-inning pitcher, to be able to throw those quality starts."

Consistency, that's what I've always strived for. Everybody in that dugout feels I'm going to give us a chance to win. That's what I was most happy about last year. Getting to the postseason was a lot more satisfac-



Jeff Weaver was a hard-luck 13-13 for NL West champion Los Angeles last season.

ting than in New York — I was a part of the action."

Weaver struggled in his first outing this spring, allowing six runs and seven hits — 36 for extra bases — in 2½ innings against the Atlanta Braves on Thursday. It was an appearance more typical of his last season in New York.

The 26-year-old Weaver was traded to the Yankees by the Detroit Tigers during the 2002 season. He went 5-3 with a 4.04 ERA in 15 appearances, eight of them starts, after the trade.

The following year was a disaster. Weaver was 7-9 with a 5.99 ERA in 24 starts and eight relief appearances.

"It was frustrating going through it, a lot of sleepless nights," he recalled.

He pitched just once in the postseason, giving up a game-ending home run to the Florida Marlins' Alex Gonzalez in Game 4 of the World Series.

Weaver didn't pitch again for New York and was traded to the Dodgers for Kevin Brown in the offseason.

It was just what he needed. And what

made it even better is that Weaver grew up outside of Los Angeles in Simi Valley, and grew up a Dodgers fan.

"Big time," he said with a smile. "I went to 20 to 30 games a year. I never felt the pressure. I thought I might win coming home. I could definitely feel a difference from one year to the next. It was probably my most satisfying season — pitching well and helping the team win."

"To come to L.A., where I had always dreamed of pitching, it was a lot of fun." Weaver said while he didn't believe he ever lost his confidence, things weren't right for him in New York.

"Going back and forth from starting to the bullpen, it was just confusion as far as my approach was concerned," he recalled. "My mechanics were way off. You always have questions in your head when you struggle."

Dodgers catcher David Ross said he believes confidence was the key for Weaver last year.

"It's that little bit of arrogance — I got that back," Ross said.

Weaver sounds very confident now. "I was in the clubhouse the night I got there. I don't settle for anything less," he said. "I've dealt with success. I've dealt with failure. I really feel like my whole game is coming together, physically and mentally."

"I want to be the ace of this staff. I want to be the ace of any staff I pitch on. Hopefully we've got five of them."

RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Strong, silent Steve

Unsung Biffle might be man to beat in Nextel Cup

By MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

FONTANA, Calif.

People tend to overlook Greg Biffle. At 35, he certainly isn't one of NASCAR's so-called Young Guns, nor is he a big talker who elicits much attention. But Biffle definitely has credentials.

A newspaper recently did an anonymous survey of 15 Nextel Cup drivers, asking their opinion on the best in the series. Biffle was on a very short list led by four-time champion Jeff Gordon.

Biffle is the only driver to have won championships in the Busch and Craftsman Truck series. Now, he's giving every indication of being a serious contender for another title in his third full season on NASCAR's top circuit.

"Biffle is no surprise to anybody in the NASCAR garage," said teammate and series champion Kurt Busch. "Everybody knows what a good driver he is and how tough he and that No. 16 team can be if they put it all together."

Although his first two years in the Cup series produced finishes of 20th and 17th in the standings, the driver from Vancouver, Wash., has four victories. But two of those wins have come in his last three races — the season-finale last year at Homestead-Miami Speedway and last Sunday at California Speedway.

The victory at California was particularly impressive, with Biffle twice coming from far back in the field and leading the last 23 laps.

It was apparently no surprise to Biffle, who predicted he would win the race after testing at the track in January.

"After that test, I had a pretty strong feeling that we would win out here if something crazy didn't happen," he explained.

But that doesn't mean it was easy. He ousted his ill-handling Ford to the end, beating hard-charging Jimmie Johnson by six car-lengths.

"This was the toughest of my life to earn," Biffle said. "We overcame more than in that race than I ever have in a race car. The car was so loose at times I could hardly keep it going in the right direction, and I didn't know why."

Now, thanks to that masterful driving job — and despite a 25th-place finish in the season-opening Daytona 500 — Biffle is fifth in the standings, trailing

"Biffle is no surprise to anybody in the NASCAR garage. Everybody knows what a good driver he is and how tough he and that No. 16 team can be if they put it all together."

Kurt Busch

Biffle's teammate,
2004 Nextel Cup champion

leader Busch by 67 points.

Biffle gave car owner Jack Roush his first NASCAR title when he won the truck championship two years later. Now, Biffle would like nothing better than to present his boss a third straight Cup title.

Matt Kenseth gave Roush his first in 2003. "I've learned a lot about myself and the way you have to race to win in Nextel Cup," said Biffle, who has been in some trouble on the track by being overly aggressive. "I really think we've got everything we need to be contenders."

"I think Jack gives us everything we need. Now we just have to put it together and make it happen."

It wouldn't surprise crew chief Doug Richert if Biffle becomes the first driver to win titles in all three of NASCAR's top touring circuits.

"I really feel this team is ready," Richert said. "The team has matured, and we've figured out what we need to give Greg for him to win."

Richert knows a bit about calling the shots for championship teams. He was the crew chief in 1980, when the late Dale Earnhardt won the first of his record-tying seven titles.

Roush, who also fields Cup cars for Busch, Kenseth, longtime star Mark Martin and promising newcomer Carl Edwards, has stood behind Biffle even when the driver made disparaging remarks about the team last year.

"There has never been any doubt about his talent," said Roush, who signed Biffle eight years after a recommendation from former NASCAR champion Benny Parsons. "He has the ability to do just about anything he wants in this sport, and I expect him to do it for our team."

But, after just two of 36 races, Biffle didn't want anybody to get too excited.

He shrugged when asked if his victory here is a sign of things to come.

"I don't know," Biffle said. "I'll let everyone else figure that one out."

Greg Biffle's victory in the Auto Club 500 on Sunday was only his fourth in Nextel Cup, but it was his second in the past three races. Biffle also is the only driver to win championships in the Busch and Craftsman Truck series.

NEXTEL CUP

Next race:
UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400
March 13, Las Vegas
Motor Speedway

Last race: Greg Biffle took the lead on lap 228 and held off a hard-charging Jimmie Johnson to win the Auto Club 500 at Fontana, Calif. Biffle twice came back from as far back as 30th position.

DRIVER STANDINGS

After 2 of 36 races

1. Kurt Busch	340
2. Jimmie Johnson	335
3. Mark Martin	301
4. Carl Edwards	287
5. Greg Biffle	273
6. Elliott Sadler	272
7. Tony Stewart	268
8. Rusty Wallace	268
9. Sterling Marlin	260
10. Jeff Gordon	258
11. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	248
12. Ryan Newman	246
13. Kevin Harvick	239
14. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	237
15. Mike Bliss	236
16. Kyle Petty	231
17. Jamie McMurray	227
18. Scott Riggs	224
19. Kevin Lepage	208
20. Brian Vickers	205

BUSCH SERIES

This week: Telcel Motorola 200 at Mexico City (Tape-delayed, 9 p.m. Sunday, ATN-AT-Atlanta).

Last race: Mark Martin extended his Busch Series record for wins to 17 with victory at the Stater Bros. 300 in Fontana, Calif. It was Martin's first win in the series since 2000.

Last year: Inaugural race.
Fast facts: This is the series' first race outside the United States. — There are 13 road-course races in Busch history, have been won by the following: — Top of the drivers' NASCAR, suggested. — Todd Bodine won him \$10,000 for an unapproved helmet air deflator on modifications on the car during inspection last weekend.

Next race: Sam's Town 300, March 12, Las Vegas.

FORMULA ONE

This week: Season-opening Australian Grand Prix at Melbourne.

Last year: Last year: Michael Schumacher won his fourth Australian Grand Prix, pacing teammate Rubens Barrichello in a 1-2 finish of Ferrari. Schumacher led from start to finish and completed the race in 1 hour, 24 minutes and 15.75 seconds — 13.6 seconds ahead of Barrichello.

Next race: Malaysian Grand Prix, March 20, Kuala Lumpur.

INDY RACING

This week: Season-opening Toyota Indy 300 at Homestead, Fla. (4 a.m. Monday, ATN-Craftsman, ATN-Korea).

Last year: Sam Hornish passed teammate Helio Castroneves on the lap with a surprising move to win the Toyota Indy 300 for the third time in the race's four-year history. Hornish took the lead on lap 173 from Tomas Scheckter, the driver who took his shot at Pennzoil Panther Racing when Hornish moved to Penske to replace the retired Gil de Ferris.

Fast facts: The only other driver to win this race was in 2003. — Tony Stewart set the track qualifying record of 217.388 mph last year. — All four turns at Homestead were rebuilt prior to last year's event, creating three lanes for racing. — The race has six degrees in previous seasons.

Next race: IMA Super Indy 200, March 15, Avondale, Ariz.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCKS

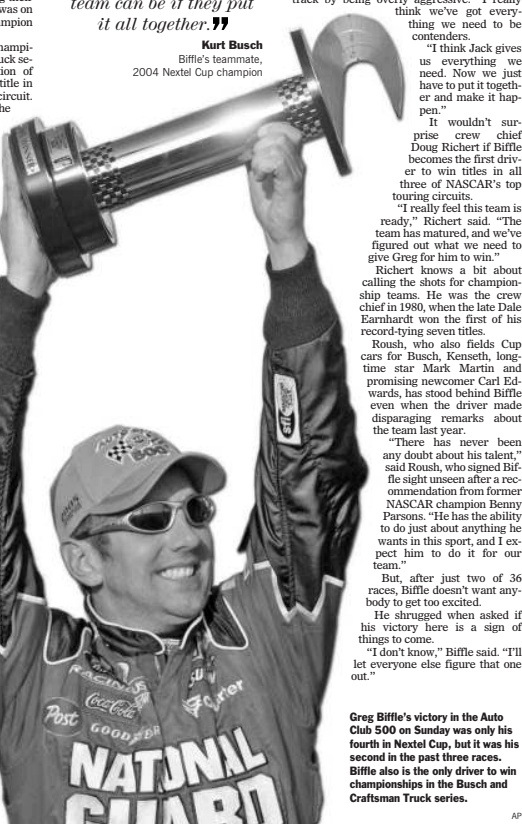
Last race: Steve Park earned his first truck series win by taking the American Raceway 200 at Fontana, Calif. Park's previous victory came with the Nextel Super Series in February 2001, seven months before he sustained a serious head injury following a crash at Darlington.

Next race: World Financial Group 200, March 18, Hampton, Ga.

CHAMP CARS

Next race: Season-opening Toyota GP of Long Beach (Calif.), April 10.

Standings for other series on Page 33.



NFC teams busy on Day 2 of free agency

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
The Associated Press

NFC teams were busy on the second day of free agency, trying to catch up with the conference champion Philadelphia Eagles.

Two of the Eagles' NFC East rivals made big moves Thursday.

Dallas added defensive tackle Jason Ferguson from the New York Jets and guard Marco Rivera from Green Bay on Thursday after signing cornerback Anthony Henry on Wednesday.

The New York Giants were set to sign middle linebacker Antonio Pierce, who emerged as a top defender for Washington last season in his first year as a starter.

And Carolina, the 2003 NFC champion, signed sought-after guard Mike Wahle, cut by Green Bay for salary cap reasons and former Seattle Seahawks cornerback Ken Lucas. Both were declared instant starters by coach John Fox.

That made Washington, usually the biggest out-of-the-gate spender in free agency, the loser for the day in its division, a place where the Eagles finished 13-3 and the Giants, Cowboys and Redskins were 6-10.

Pierce's departure to a division opponent was conceded by Redskins coach Joe Gibbs, who had identified the 26-year-old linebacker as one of the "core players" he wanted to keep. But New York's reported offer of a six-year, \$26 million deal was too much for the usually free-spending Redskins.

"We went as far as we could go, I felt like," Gibbs said. "It's something that just didn't work out. I hate it. It's not going to happen very often to us, but there's times when it could happen."

Meanwhile, San Francisco signed offensive lineman Jonas Jennings, formerly of the Buffalo Bills and regarded as the best left tackle available.

The position is usually at a premium, although Jennings isn't in the class of the best

Cowboys add DT Ferguson, OG Rivera; Giants poach LB Pierce from Redskins



Antonio Pierce (58), chasing Pittsburgh's Jerome Bettis (36) last year, led Washington's third-ranked defense in tackles last season, his first as a full-time starter in the NFL.

NFL's best. Two of them, Orlando Pace of St. Louis and Walter Jones of Seattle, were kept off the market this year — Jones re-signed with the Seahawks and Pace was protected as the Rams' franchise player.

The Rams added their second free-agent linebacker in two days on Thursday, signing Chris Claiborne to a three-year, \$10.5

million contract. Claiborne, a middle linebacker, joins outside linebacker Dexter Coakley in the Rams' stacked defense. Coakley got a five-year, \$14.5 million deal.

Oakland signed running back LaMont Jordan, who had been Curtis Martin's backup with the Jets. Jordan, once 479 yards rushing were more than the Raiders' lead-

ing rusher last season, got \$11 million guaranteed in a contract that will pay him \$27.5 million over five years.

Another free agent, Reggie Hayward, rewarded for being able to do what quarterbacks is getting paid to prevent — rush the passer. Hayward was introduced by Jacksonville after signing a five-year, \$25 million deal.

Hayward led Denver last season with 10½ sacks despite being only a part-time player at the start of the season. With Jacksonville, he will play alongside one of the NFL's best defensive tackle tandems: John Henderson and Marcus Stroud.

"He's an ascending player, and we believe his best football is ahead of him," coach Jack Del Rio said. "With the presence we have inside with Marcus and Big John, we believe Reggie will help take our defense to another level."

In other moves:

■ Tight end Marcus Pollard was released by Indianapolis, saving the Colts \$2.65 million in salary cap space. He is second in Colts history to Hall of Famer John Mackey for catches by a tight end with 263.

■ Cleveland signed guard Joe Andruzzi, a starter on all three of New England's Super Bowl winners, to a four-year, \$9 million deal that reunites him with new Browns coach Romeo Crennel, the former Patriots defensive coordinator.

■ Minnesota solidified its defense by signing nose tackle Pat Williams late Wednesday. His presence will free up third-year tackle Kevin Williams, a Pro Bowl selection last season, from double teaming.

■ Cincinnati re-signed wide receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh, who was a highly regarded free agent. Houshmandzadeh caught 73 passes for 978 yards and four touchdowns.

■ Houston signed linebacker Morlon Greenwood, who started for Miami, to a five-year, \$22.5 million deal and re-signed defensive tackle Seth Payne, one of the players the Texans chose in the expansion draft before their first season in 2002.

Army vet McCune fit for duty

NFL prospect knows the difference between football and battle

BY MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — When Robert McCune hears football players talk about going to war, he just shakes his head. Three years of Army service taught him that football is a game, war is a battle for survival.

McCune lived on military bases in five states and was deployed to South Korea and Kuwait. He's heard the crackle of nearby gunfire and camped on a roof during a monsoon. He spent days refueling military vehicles and free moments lifting a 50-pound rock.

McCune endured it all so he could keep playing football. His Army buddies found that funny.

"I told them that after this I was going to go to college and get my degree. I was going to play football, and they laughed," he said.

Now the linebacker might be close to playing in the NFL. McCune, among the 332 players invited to this year's combine, will be 26 by the time of the April draft, and he might be the oldest player selected.

"If the guy is a real good football player, you don't worry about it," Houston Texans General Manager Charley Casserly said. "If he's in the development stage, it becomes a concern."

McCune wasn't even offered a Division I-A scholarship when he graduated from LeFlore High School in Mobile, Ala. He had hoped to play in college at Alabama or Auburn, but the only offers came from places like Alabama A&M, Alabama State, Southern University and Grambling.

So McCune joined the Army in 1997.

"My plan was to go into the military, grow up and walk on at some Division I school," he said.

During the next three years, he lived in Fort Lee, Va.; Fort Stewart, Ga.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Knox, Ky.; and Fort Irwin, Calif. The training regimen included 4-mile runs, pushups and situps.

When he went to South Korea for one year as a patrolling specialist, McCune improvised. He used his fueling truck rig as a pul-

lup bar and a heavy rock for weightlifting. Between missions, McCune found just enough time to pull out the sharp-edged rock for a workout.

"I'd sit on top of the truck and do curls over my head until they came," he said. "I was in Korea for 365 days, and I'd say I worked out 340 days."

McCune learned to deal with the odor of raw sewage and poor living conditions, but wasn't prepared for monsoon season. One night, with his barracks covered in about 7 feet of water, he scrambled onto a roof and spent the night there as lightning lit the sky.

"I didn't think the rain was ever going to end," he said. "I was trying to think of a plan of what to do next."

During a six-month tour in Kuwait, McCune and the Americans rarely met the locals. Occasionally, McCune was awakened by gunfire, unsure where the shots came from.

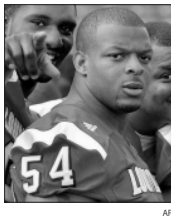
McCune finished his active duty in 2000. When he returned

home, he pursued his football dream despite a five-year commitment to the National Guard. Some coaches were wary, knowing he might miss practices.

But he persuaded John L. Smith, then-coach of Louisville, to let him play as a walk-on, and he used the G.I. Bill to pay for his first semester. By the second semester, he had earned a scholarship.

In March 2003, he nearly had to leave football again. McCune's Guard unit was alerted that it might be deployed to Iraq. He was sent to Fort Knox for training, missed part of spring football and worried he might miss part or all of his junior season.

"It was tough because I had been selected captain, and my coaches expected a lot out of me," he said. "They told me not to worry, that my spot would still be there when I got back. I missed about two or three months of school, but everything ended up working out. We weren't called up. It just made me appreciate football that much more."



Robert McCune, who lived on military bases in five states and was deployed to South Korea and Kuwait, made a team-high 143 tackles for Louisville in 2003.

McCune finished 2003 with a team-high 143 tackles, including four sacks.

This past December, after finishing his Louisville career with 320 tackles, McCune completed his military service with the rank of corporal. Time to start preparing for the NFL combine. He also earned a degree in education.

Some scouts wonder if the 6-foot, 245-pound McCune is big enough to play inside linebacker in the NFL, but no one has questioned his commitment or work ethic.

SPORTS



Companies make bid
to buy NHL's 30 teams,
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Bryant, accuser settle civil suit

NBA star reaches deal to end sexual assault case; terms undisclosed

BY JON SARCHE
The Associated Press

DENVER — With a terse news release and an even terser court filing, the sordid sexual assault case against Kobe Bryant that gripped the nation abruptly ended with an agreement that ensures the NBA star never goes to trial for what happened in a hotel room two years ago.

Few experts believed the civil lawsuit would ever be heard by a jury, saying it was unlikely that Bryant and the 20-year-old woman who accused him of raping her relished the prospect of having to divulge potentially embarrassing, intimate details in a courtroom.

The case tarnished both Bryant, 27, arguably the NBA's best player, and the woman, a former high school cheerleader who once tried out for "American Idol" and found herself the subject of Internet speculation.

Terms of the settlement were not released. Law experts said the agreement probably spelled out financial penalties for revealing any details.



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant shoots during warmups prior to a game against the Boston Celtics in Boston on Wednesday.

A two-sentence statement faxed to The Associated Press by Bryant's attorneys said only that the matter had been resolved

"to the satisfaction of both parties."

"The parties and their attorneys have agreed that no further comments about the matter can or will be made," the statement said. A one-sentence motion for dismissal stipulating that the case can never be refiled was filed simultaneously in Denver federal court.

After a few more days of intense speculation about Wednesday's settlement — how much money, whether any details can ever be released — the case will quickly fade from view, said Denver attorney Scott Robinson.

"Ultimately a new scandal, a new public shame will come along and both the plaintiff and the defendant can pretty much go about their lives," he said.

A Los Angeles Lakers spokesman said Bryant had declined comment on the settlement. Bryant scored 26 points Wednesday night in Boston, but the Celtics still beat the Lakers 104-101.

"It's in both parties' interests to have this remain confidential," said Los Angeles at-

torney Steve Cron, who is familiar with celebrity cases. "That's one of the incentives for them to settle: He didn't have to do a deposition, the lurid details wouldn't be posted on some Web site, she didn't have to face the rigors of having a deposition by his lawyers and she'll gain some privacy as well."

The lawsuit, filed three weeks before the criminal case against Bryant collapsed last summer, sought unspecified damages for mental injuries, public scorn and humiliation the woman said she has suffered since their June 2003 encounter at the Vail-area hotel where she worked. The woman hasn't commented publicly on the case.

Bryant, a married father of one, apologized for his "behavior that night and for the consequences she has suffered," but insisted the sex was consensual.

Shortly after jury selection began in the criminal case, prosecutors in Eagle County dropped the single felony sexual assault count after the woman told them she couldn't take part in a trial.

SEE SETTLE ON PAGE 35

Off to a good start



Washington Nationals' Jose Guillen, right, is congratulated by teammate Brad Wilkerson after hitting a two-run home run against the New York Mets in the fourth inning of their spring training opener, Wednesday in Viera, Fla. The Nationals won their first game after moving from Montreal, beating the Mets 5-3. For complete spring training coverage, see story on Page 37.



Cowboys, Giants
dive into the
free-agent pool

Page 39



UConn's Calhoun
latest to earn
700th victory

Page 36

